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Life improved

Three mentally handicapped children crowd in front of a window at a hospital, for retarded children at Vulturesti village near Bucharest. The dramatic life they used to live during dictator Ceausescu's rule has been improved as more medical equipment and supplies were brought in, along with better food for the 78 children aged 3 to 8. (Reuters wirephoto)

Airbus: Rajiv blamed for deal

NEW DELHI, May 8. (UPI): Former prime minister Rajiv Gandhi and four aides decided that India should purchase 31 European-made Airbus A-320 passenger jets in a deal that the government charges involved kickbacks to Indian officials, the Indian Express said today.

There was no immediate reaction from Rajiv to the report that he and the aides bypassed normal channels in approving the purchase.

The report triggered acrimonious exchanges in both houses of Parliament, with members of the opposition Congress (I) Party accusing the minority National Front government of Prime Minister V.P. Singh of leaking information to the media for political ends.

The government responded by agreeing to demands to present to Parliament documents relating to the March 13, 1986, deal. But, Civil Aviation Minister Arif Mohammad Khan announced that at least one crucial file was missing.

The Airbus deal is the latest of a series of transactions concluded by the Rajiv government which was criticised in late November national polls, that are the targets of corruption investigations.

The Airbus probe was opened after an A-320 crashed on Feb 14 in the southern city of Bangalore, killing 90 people and sparking a flurry of news reports alleging wrongdoing in the aircraft's purchase.

The Indian Express reproduced on its front page a copy of a memorandum that led to the decision to buy the European-made passenger jets was taken in an April 2, 1985, meeting between Rajiv and his aides in the former Indian leader's Parliament office.

The hand-written memorandum was signed by S.S. Siddha, who then served as civil aviation secretary and is now the secretary-general of the Montreal-based International Civil Aviation Association, the newspaper said.

Siddha was one of four former officials named by the Central Bureau of Investigation in preliminary charges filed March 29 that alleged that undisclosed kickbacks were paid to public servants to secure the Airbus deal.

Four unidentified Indian individuals were also charged, as were the A-320's manufacturer, French-based Airbus Industrie, and International Aero Engines of the United States, which have denied any wrongdoing.

The government alleged that kickbacks were paid to officials to cancel plans for state-owned Indian Airlines to purchase aircraft from US-based Boeing Co.

The former Rajiv administration had signed a July 1984 letter of intent to acquire 12 Boeing passenger jets, but abruptly cancelled the deal after receiving that October an unsolicited offer from Airbus Industries.

The government charged that the decision was taken "in total disregard" of recommendations made by an expert panel that had not even considered the A-320 in reviewing aircraft for acquisition.

Last day to register

Poll campaign from Thursday



Abdul Gani Al Mutairi

Candidates Speak

Abdul Gani Abdullah Abdul Gani of Hawalli said that the Interim Council is a transitional period for the National Assembly.

He believes the participation of citizens in the National Council is one way of serving Kuwait. "It is a way of keeping and preserving our country and unity from derailing."

He predicts more candidates will contest the elections. "The registration of candidates reflects their patriotic feelings."

In his campaign Gani will focus on matters concerning the public such as upgrading housing and health services, and fulfilling their needs.

He also will call for extending the retirement age and increasing the allowances for the technical employees in the government.

Hasan Abdulla Al Qasbi Al Mutairi running for Farwaniya, believes in the role of the National Council to prevent "poisonous rumours and thoughts among those of no principles."

In his campaign he will call for encouraging the private sector and more flexibility in the labour law. "This will provide more opportunities to Kuwaiti businessmen as well as expatriates to activate the local market."

Mutairi who praised the government's policy towards expatriates believes in reviewing the economic plans to regain the boom that Kuwait witnessed during the early eighties.

He criticised the minutes of the National Assembly experience and likened it to "pulling on a rope until it snaps."

In his campaign, Mutairi will focus on developing housing services for citizens.

By Lima Al Khalafawi Arab Times staff

TODAY is the last day for candidates to register for the upcoming Interim National Council elections.

Until yesterday another 67 candidates registered raising the number of hopefuls to 406. Election circle sources predicted the number of hopefuls would reach 500 with ex-members of the 1985 National Assembly's group of 32.

Sources also predicted a big number of withdrawals from Thursday onwards.

The sources added that campaigns are expected to be in full swing starting tomorrow. They are also expecting a boom in the local market especially in the livestock sales.

According to the election law, each candidate has to nominate one campaign manager (Kuwaiti) who should be registered at the same constituency.

(Continued on Page 11)

5 detained in bribery scam

FIVE Indians were last week detained for questioning by the police for their alleged involvement in airport bribery scam.

Among them was an Air India official, a KAC staff member, two passengers and an "agent". They were detained for questioning last Monday for their alleged involvement in what is known as the excess baggage scam.

All except the "agent" have been released from custody after questioning. The AI executive has denied the allegations. No charges have been made.

It is not known who lodged the complaint.

(Continued on Page 11)

Suspect confesses killing of marine

MANILA, May 8. (AP): One of two Filipinos arrested in the killing of a US marine has confessed that he accidentally shot the American in a hold-up near the US-run Subic Bay naval base, authorities said today.

Police Lt. Col. MacArthur Torres said Renato Angeles, 38, confessed late yesterday while undergoing a lie-detector test inside Camp Crame in suburban Quezon City.

Angeles and a friend, William Burke, 24, were arrested earlier yesterday after witnesses said they had been running from a darkened street in Olongapo City where gunshots were heard.

John Fredette was shot last Friday. Yesterday, both suspects had denied involvement in Fredette's killing. They and several witnesses were taken to Manila for questioning.

'Made in Iraq'

Saddam displays nuke triggers

BAGHDAD, May 8. (Agencies): President Saddam Hussein today displayed several locally made, electric triggering devices in an effort to refute charges by British and American customs agents that Iraq was trying to obtain them illegally for nuclear weapons.

He also said that Iraq had been able to import some of the devices before a batch seized during a March sting operation in England.

Saddam displayed the devices, which he said were similar to one produced in the United States, which he also showed to the participants.

"If the British or the Americans want to import some of these devices which are labelled made in Iraq they can negotiate a deal with the Ministry of Industry and Military Industrialization," he announced to the cheers and applause of the Arab delegates.

Saddam also disclosed that Iraq was able to import some of the same devices produced by the American firm before British customs officers seized a hatch at London's Heathrow airport.

"The ones they seized were not all what crossed," he said without further elaboration.

Saddam said the technicians took the initiative themselves and without being asked, produced two samples in two different government enterprises.

The President also accused the West of conducting a campaign to hinder what he described as Iraq's technical and scientific advancement.

He said the West "chases Iraq wherever it purchased equipment in order to prevent it, and consequently the Arab nation, from looking to the future."

Saddam said Iraq will not give up its course of technical development despite pressure from the West.

Technical and scientific advancement is the new tide of patriotism. So how can an honest and patriotic man retract from such a course?" he said.

"Anyone who says that he is independent in his country should check that with his scientific and technical development, and this applies especially to the Arabs," he said.

At the Baghdad rally, speaker after speaker attacked Britain, the United States and Israel, while expressing support for Iraq in what they said was an organised campaign to slander Iraq and force it to halt its technical advancement.

Saddam said the campaign against Iraq started in March after his government banned a London based Iranian-born journalist, Farzad Bazoft, accused of spying for Israel and Britain.

United Nations inspectors said today that they had found no evidence that Iraq was diverting material from its nuclear energy programme to military use.

A prominent British newspaper continued today its smear campaign against Baghdad by suggesting a British link in the supply of a self-propelled weapon to Iraq.

Saddam reiterated Iraq's denial that the devices were needed as nuclear triggers but said Iraqi technicians at the Ministry of Industry and Military Industrialization were able to produce two of these devices. He described them as electrical condensers to be used by Iraq's University of Technology.

"Only five days after the Americans said they (seized them) our young men in the military industry managed to produce two condensers," Saddam told about 2,000 Arab delegates attending a rally in Baghdad to express solidarity with Iraq.



Golf set worth \$633,000

A sales lady shows off a three-piece golf set worth 100 million yen (\$633,000) during a 'Diamonds for Working Women' campaign by a Tokyo dealer yesterday. The putter has 288 diamonds and consists of 21.12 carats, the ball has 316 diamonds of 25.13 carats, while the tee has 44 diamonds and consists of 4.25 carats. (Reuters wirephoto)

Students strike

Protesting bylaws

KUWAIT, May 8. (Kuna): Kuwait University Rector Dr Shuaib Abdulla Shuaib today confirmed efforts were currently exerted to reach a just compromise formula for the university's student bylaws and internal regulations.

Talking to Kuna following the university students one-day strike today, called for by the students union in protest of some articles in the 1986 student bylaws, Dr Shuaib said the formal aims of creating highly qualified graduates through adopting laws that do not contradict with what was agreed upon by international universities.

He added that the formal also target upgrading the Kuwait University graduates level of education and to maintain the university as well as its graduates' reputation.

Israelis kill 2 in South Lebanon

10 killed in East Beirut carnage

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, May 8. (Reuters): Israeli troops in South Lebanon shot and killed two commandos they encountered today inside Israel's self-declared security zone, the army said.

"An IDF (Israel Defence Force) force engaged in routine activity came upon the terrorists north of Qantara," the army said in a statement.

"The IDF force opened fire toward the terrorists, killing two of them," it said. "There were no injuries among our force."

Rival Christian forces battled with artillery north of Beirut today after savage night-long fighting that set hospitals ablaze while feuding Shiite Muslim factions clashed in South Lebanon.

"The city is burning." The cry of a resident rose above the thunder of exploding shells and rockets today.

More than 10 people were killed and 20 wounded, including five children, Security sources said the children were playing close to their homes in Jdaydeh area when mortar bombs fell nearby.

Among the dead was army Colonel Francois Zein, head of the Lebanese Military Academy of General Michel Aoun.

Troops of General Michel Aoun and militiamen of the Lebanese Forces (LF) battled for a 14th week in most of East Beirut and nearby mountains.

Security sources said Zein and another officer were killed when a shell struck their office at the academy in the area of Fiyadieh. Scores of shells also hit Aoun's Defence Ministry and presidential palace in the suburbs of Baabda.

The heavy shelling engulfed most of East Beirut residential neighbourhoods and outlying towns and villages where families huddled in hiding and fear in underground shelters.

The wailing sirens of ambulances, racing through the streets, echoed across the city.

"Shells are raining down non-stop on nearly every quarter of East Beirut. The city is lighting up from the glow of the exploding shells... it is burning, it is burning," cried resident Souhail.

Not a single neighbourhood appeared to have escaped the shelling which started several fires in residential areas and on the pine-clad hills overlooking the heart of the Christian enclave.

Columns of black smoke billowed over the battlegrounds and radio stations interrupted programmes to broadcast news on the fighting and urge civilians to take cover in underground shelters.

Iran and Iraq welcomed Moscow's mediation offer in January, but Iranian officials later said the Soviet leadership had not followed it up because it was pre-occupied in domestic problems.

Petrovsky, who arrived in Tehran on Sunday, told Vaezi that Moscow backed the peace initiatives of UN Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar and full implementation of Security Council Resolution 598.

The Iranian parliament today passed a bill to provide material and political support for the Palestinian people, Tehran Radio said.

Neutral venue: Assad

DAMASCUS, May 8. (AP): President Hafez Al Assad has stressed he will not attend an emergency Arab summit in Baghdad, but said he would go to a conference "in a place to which nobody objects."

The official Syrian Arab News Agency reported today.

Assad's move stirred fresh uncertainty about the proposed summit and triggered new differences between Arab leaders while leaving his long-running feud with Iraq's President Saddam Hussein as bitter as ever.

King Hussein of Jordan, a close ally of Assad, insisted the summit will be held in Baghdad before the end of the month and said he knows of no plans to move it.

Sana said Assad made the remarks last night in a meeting with Chadi Klibi, secretary-general of the Arab League, who flew to Damascus Sunday in an apparent effort to persuade Assad to be more flexible.

Syria today officially called for an emergency meeting of Arab foreign ministers in Tunis for pre-consultations on date, venue and agenda of a proposed emergency Arab summit.

Syria's request was tabled to the Arab League's secretariat-general by its permanent representative Ahmed Eisa.

Officials said Klibi left Damascus this morning after his talks with Assad and Foreign Minister Farouq Al Shara.

Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Abdullah Bin Abdul Aziz flew to Cairo from Amman after talks with King Hussein aimed at salvaging the proposed summit.



Pearl of Lao-Tzu

Peter Hoffman, part owner of the world's largest pearl, shows off the priceless arifact known as the Pearl of Lao-Tzu before storing it in a security vault on May 3. Officially listed in the Guinness Book of World Records, the pearl has been valued up to \$42 million and has been offered for sale. (Reuters wirephoto)

USSR to mediate

NICOSIA, May 8. (Reuters): Moscow today repeated its offer to mediate between Gulf war foes Iran and Iraq, the Iranian news agency Irna said.

It said the offer was made when Soviet and Iranian deputy foreign ministers met in Tehran, with Vladimir Petrovsky telling Iran's Mahmoud Vaezi that the Kremlin was keen "to hold a tripartite peace meeting with Iran and Iraq."

Vaezi said the Soviet Union could play a role towards achieving the comprehensive peace which has eluded Iran and Iraq in UN-mediated peace talks held after their August 1988 ceasefire, the agency added.

Iran and Iraq welcomed Moscow's mediation offer in January, but Iranian officials later said the Soviet leadership had not followed it up because it was pre-occupied in domestic problems.

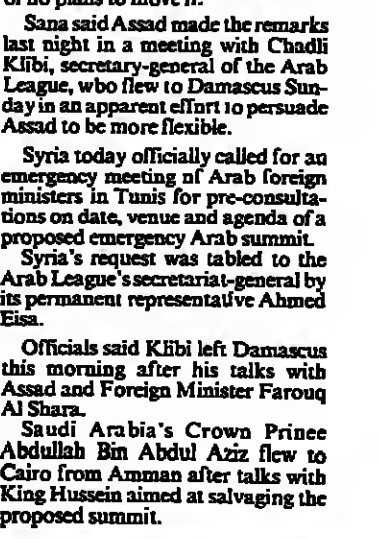
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Welcome Iranians

NICOSIA, May 8. (Reuters): Saudi Arabia today warmly welcomed Iranian pilgrims to the Muslim holy cities of Makkah and Medina and remained willing to negotiate over the issue.

"We followed with great regret an announcement by (senior Iranian cleric) Mehdi Imam Jamarani that indirect negotiations on raising the numbers of Iranian pilgrims had failed."



Military reform

President Mikhail Gorbachev took aim at the Soviet Union's restive armed forces yesterday, demanding immediate reforms and blasting a leading military hero, former dictator Josef Stalin.

Gorbachev rebuffed veterans and senior officers demanding a harder line against "anti-social" elements, saying the military could not avoid reform. (Reuters wirephoto)

Marcoses dished out millions from palace cash boxes to hang on to power

LOS ANGELES, May 8. (UPI): Ferdinand and Imelda Marcos dispensed millions from palace cash boxes to thugs, politicians and journalists in an attempt to hang on to power in the final days of their regime in the Philippines, the Los Angeles Times reported today.

The Times, citing a copy of a Malacanang presidential palace ledger it obtained, reported the couple gave out more than \$8.5 million in cash while President Marcos ran to keep his office in a fraud and violence-fraught election.

An accused political assassin, the National Press Corps, election officials and even an avowed communist were listed among recipients of cash and gifts on the previously undisclosed ledger.

The 56-page ledger was seized with other palace documents by the new government after the Marcoses fled in the Feb 25, 1986 revolt. It is similar to other palace ledgers that have been introduced as evidence in the six-week-old federal fraud and racketeering trial of Imelda Marcos in New York.

The ledger credits accused killer Arturo Pacificar with receiving about \$50,000 five days after the murder of Eulio Javier, a top aide to rival presidential candidate Corazon Aquino. Pacificar was indicted in the shooting and is a fugitive.

The document also indicates gifts of watches and envelopes containing about \$250 each were provided to every reporter assigned to the presidential palace press corps and that some reporters received frequent cash gifts from Mrs Marcos during the campaign.

The Times said the ledger recorded payments totalling about \$15,000 to avowed communist Nilo Tayag after he denounced Marxism and campaigned for Marcos.

Crucial talks on US bases

Major diplomatic challenge for Aquino

MANILA, May 8, (Reuters): President Corason Aquino is heading into crucial negotiations with the United States next week beset by a faltering Philippine economic recovery and persistent fears of another coup attempt by army rebels.

The Philippines and the United States open exploratory talks next Monday on the future of the country's American military bases in a major diplomatic challenge for Aquino.

Washington is pressing to keep the bases, which would help defend the Indian and Pacific Ocean regions until the next century, but there are growing demands in the Philippines for them to be removed.

Diplomats say Aquino's domestic difficulties are likely to weaken her hand in the negotiations with the United States, with 78,000 Filipino jobs at stake and \$1 billion a

year in aid and indirect spending linked to the bases.

The 57-year-old window faces a mounting chorus of criticism of her government's performance, and the outcome of the talks will colour the final two years of her presidency.

At home, she is seen increasingly as a weak and inept leader who does not have a true grasp of her job, politicians and analysts say.

The army is fragmented, her centrepiece land reform programme is stalled, the economy has been hit by persistent electric power shortages and coup rumours, and the government has come under fire for tolerating widespread corruption and continued human rights abuses.

"In the annals of Philippine politics, the Aquino presidency stands out as the only administration that has been paralysed by the

moderant fear of exercising state power," said Amando Doronila, editor-in-chief of the Manila Chronicle, in a front page commentary.

Doronila, who usually supports Aquino, warned she had created a political vacuum that had encouraged army rebels to try to take over.

"The Filipinos, including members of the armed forces, expect to be told what to do and to be ordered — especially the soldiers — by their constitutional commander-in-chief."

Francisco Tatad, a former spokesman for the late president Ferdinand Marcos who is now editor of the pro-opposition daily Newday, says Aquino has failed to tackle some of the country's most basic problems, like the power shortage.



From left to right in front are Captain Danilo Pizarro, Brig. Gen. Jose Comendador and Brig. Gen. Marcelo Blando, standing before a military tribunal May 8 in Manila. (Reuters wirephoto)



A witness points to (L-R) Rey Angeles and Billy Burke May 7 in Davao, suspected killers of Fredette. (Reuters wirephoto)

Defence lawyers walk out

Philippine coup trial

MANILA, May 8, (AP): Lawyers for soldiers accused of trying to overthrow President Corason Aquino walked out of court today after military judges denied their motion questioning the legality of the tribunal.

One of the civilian lawyers told the court he would not participate further in the trial and walked out, followed by the other defence lawyers. They were cheered by 21 officers accused of participating in the December coup attempt.

The officers, including two generals, were the first soldiers to face court martial in the Dec 1-9 fighting and overthrow attempt, the strongest and bloodiest of six bids to topple Aquino since she took office four years ago in an uprising against the late president Ferdinand Marcos.

All 21 have been charged with mutiny, murder, attempted murder and conduct unbecoming an officer.

In Philippines

12 killed in clash

CEBU, May 8, (AP): At least 12 people were killed in a clash between government troops and communist guerrillas in the central Philippines, the military reported today.

Brig. Gen. Raul Imperial, regional Philippine constabulary commander, said about 70 New People's Army guerrillas swooped down on a constabulary base in Biliran town on Bohol island, about 640 kilometres (400 miles) southeast of Manila.

Two soldiers were killed in the opening shots of the attack. The outnumbered defenders fought back, but were forced to withdraw after three government militiamen were wounded, Imperial said. The three died en route to a hospital in nearby Carmen town.

The rebels took away two rifles left by the fleeing soldiers and torched the outpost before escaping.

Two more soldiers were killed when pursuing troops hit one of three land mines left by the guerrillas along their escape route, Imperial said.

Imperial quoted witnesses as saying five guerrillas were killed in the firefight, but their comrades carried away their bodies.

They could receive life imprisonment if convicted of all charges.

Brig. Gen. Jose Comendador, one of the accused, declared: "This worse than a kangaroo court," and said the defendants would not participate in the trial if they were not represented by their civilian lawyers.

During the opening session, defence lawyers filed several motions, including one challenging the authority of military Chief of Staff Gen. Resurreccion Villamor to appoint the court.

Defence lawyer Pablo Sanidad argued that De Villa should not personally have appointed the judges because he was in effect a "co-accuser" since his residence was bombed and destroyed in the coup attempt.

The proceedings were adjourned for about 10 minutes as prosecutors hurried to find a copy of the order appointing the court.

The defence lawyers argued that the order creating the court and appointing its members was not signed by De Villa, but the military judges ruled that the tribunal was "duly constituted".

"I'm sorry I cannot stand in behalf of my client and could not be a willing instrument over this illegally assembled body," former appellate court Judge Alfredo Lazaro told the judges before leading the walkout of about a dozen lawyers.

Lazaro represented Lt. Col. Romelino Cajo, a marine commander who led rebel troops in taking over the suburban Villamor Air Base.

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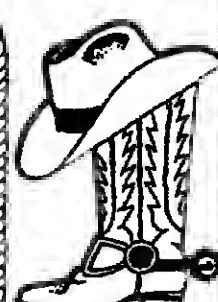
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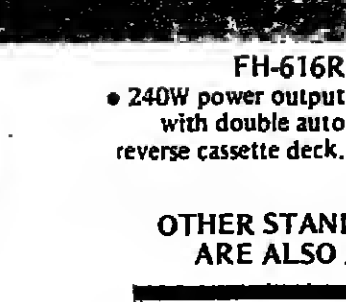


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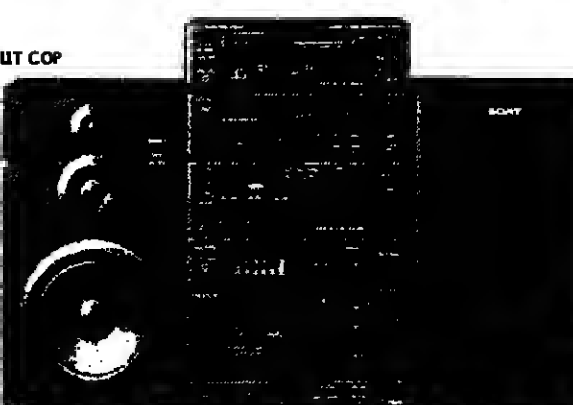




KD W/OUT COP
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KD W/COP-S37
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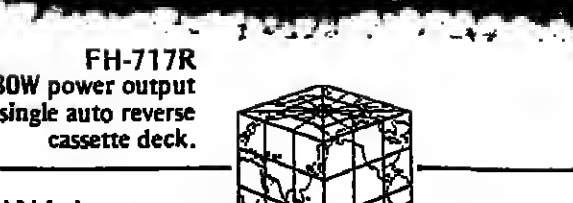
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MADE IN JAPAN
WORLDWIDE EXCELLENCE

2 Colombians held in Florida

Plot to buy Stinger missiles

TAMPA, May 8. (AP): Two Colombians who claimed links to the Medellin drug cartel were in custody yesterday accused of trying to buy Stinger missiles to use against aircraft carrying Colombian government officials, the FBI said.

The men agreed to hand over \$1 million in cocaine profits as a down payment for 120 Stinger missiles and 50 automatic rifles, plus a plane to transport the weapons back to Colombia, FBI agent Charles A. Saleme testified.

The suspects, claiming to work for reputed cartel kingpin Pablo Escobar, said bribed officials would help them smuggle the weapons for attacks on the anti-drug Colombian government. The suspects told undercover agents they would pay \$5 million — from the planned sale of 400 to 600 kilos of cocaine — for the plane and the weapons, and \$1 million to the people who would steal the weapons, Saleme told a federal magistrate.

FBI officials said a Stinger sells for about \$14,000 on the legitimate arms market. The 4-foot-long (1.2 metre), 35 pound (16 kilogram) shoulder-fired missile uses an infrared homing device to aim itself at the heat generated by an aircraft's engine.

Assassinate
Allen McCright, FBI chief in Tampa, said investigators weren't aware of specific plans by drug traffickers to assassinate Colombian President Virgilio Barco Vargas, who has waged war on drug smugglers, or his cabinet.

Violence linked to Colombia's drug lords has claimed the lives of three presidential candidates in that country in the past year.

This case is the most recent of several reported attempts by drug traffickers to obtain Stingers, but federal officials say none of the earlier negotiations had gone as far as the plot involving the two men arrested Saturday.

A Miami task force on narcotics and terrorism seized a mini-arsenal of automatic weapons and ammunition from a Miami home where the two had stayed, the FBI said.

An undercover drug investigation in Polk County in west-central Florida eventually led to the federal "sting" in the weapons deal.

The traffickers were shown a Stinger brought in from Fort Stewart, Georgia, Polk Sheriff Lawrence Crow said, but no weapons exchanged hands.

Authorities on Saturday arrested Alfredo Antonio Ramos-Tinoco, 47, at a Tampa hotel bar, and Luis Fernando Arcila-Giraldo, 28, near Miami international airport.

Changed

Both were charged with conspiracy to receive stolen property and export arms illegally, as well as aiding and abetting the importation and possession with intent to distribute marijuana and cocaine.

Ramos-Tinoco was ordered held without bond yesterday by US Magistrate Thomas Wilson in Tampa. He was appointed a public defender after claiming he couldn't afford to pay an attorney.

Arcila-Giraldo, who also goes by the name of Luis Alfredo Hernandez-Zuluaga, was appointed a public defender during a brief appearance before US Magistrate Linnea Johnson in Miami yesterday. He was ordered held without bond.

An FBI affidavit said Ramos-Tinoco "described Luis as a close associate" of Colombian drug boss Pablo Escobar. It also said Ramos-Tinoco "stated that if this arms exchange deal went well, it would be arranged for the undercover organisation to handle future transportation of drugs into the United States on behalf of the Pablo Escobar group."

However, McCright cautioned: "We have not established these negotiations were directed or controlled by Pablo Escobar."

Doctor, morgue attendants held

CARACAS, May 8. (AP): Anophthalmologist and 11 morgue attendants were arrested during the weekend, accused of stealing eyes for cornea transplants from bodies taken to the city morgue, police said yesterday.

Juan Gerardo Schultz, a 37-year-old physician, was arrested Saturday night, and technical judicial police (PTJ) are now questioning other medical staff from his clinic in Maracay, 62 miles (100 kilometres) west of Caracas, commissioner Alexis Bolivar said.

Also arrested were 11 morgue attendants, including one man who previously worked for the Eyc Bank, a non-profit organisation that helps cornea transplant patients.



A workman restores the 40-metre high Christ statue at the Corcovado Mountain near Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, on Monday. In February two private enterprises signed an agreement to spend \$2 million to restore the monument by its 59th anniversary in October. (Reuters wirephoto)

Convictions now doubtful

Slaying of Jesuits

SAN SALVADOR, El Salvador, May 8. (AP): A weak prosecution case and missing evidence make convictions of nine military men unlikely in the November slayings of six Jesuit priests and two women, a court source said yesterday.

The Foreign Relations Committee of the US House of Representatives has approved a proposal cutting off military aid to El Salvador, now worth about \$85 million a year, if the Central American country fails to pursue actively its investigation of the deaths of the priests.

"If we work hard and there are no problems, I believe the trial can conclude at the end of this year," said the source at the 4th criminal court.

The source, who spoke on condition of anonymity, added that the fact that four cadets who could testify in the case were sent out of the country adds to the difficulty in gaining a conviction.

Also, a logbook and a personal diary that could document Benavides' movements have been reported lost.

"All these problems raised obstacles to the court's effort to

find out if any other high-ranking military men are involved or are trying to cover up for the murders," the source said.

Col. Guillermo Benavides, commander of the military school at the time, three lieutenants and five soldiers are accused in the crime. Benavides also was in charge of the area where the killings took place.

El Salvador's Deputy Defence Minister Col. Juan Orlando Zepeda yesterday denied the military high command was involved in the Nov. 16 slaying of six Jesuit priests.

"I emphatically reject any connection of myself or the high command in this case," Zepeda told reporters, in an effort to refute implications of a recent "60 minutes" show broadcast on American CBS television, which Zepeda said unfairly implicated him in the murders.

Salvadorean President Alfredo Cristiani said today there were no obstacles to an official probe into the killings of six Jesuit priests last November, although evidence in the case has disappeared and key witnesses are currently unable to testify.

Farewell to arms

Contras begin turning in

MANAGUA, May 8. (Reuters): About 100 Contra rebels were due to hand over their weapons to United Nations soldiers in a Nicaraguan village today in a ceremony President Violeta Chamorro says will bring a farewell to arms after eight years of war.

"I believe that with the resistance's acceptance of this firm disarmament agreement we have entered an irreversible peace process," Chamorro said in a statement yesterday.

"This means a farewell to arms, the triumph of peace over violence."

The first group of rebels in Nicaragua were due to turn in their weapons in the village of El Almendro about 140 miles (230 km) southeast of Managua.

Chamorro's National Opposition Union alliance said yesterday it will submit 17 constitutional reforms to the new National Assembly, including limits on presidential powers.

USSR, Cuba must co-ordinate steps

MOSCOW, May 8. (UPI): Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze, in a message to his Cuban counterpart today, signalled Moscow's dissatisfaction with the fellow communist nation's continued resistance to reform.

Shevardnadze and Cuban Foreign Minister Isidor Malmierca exchanged greetings on the 30th anniversary of the May 8, 1960, resumption of diplomatic relations between the two countries. 16 months after Cuban President Fidel Castro seized power following a long guerrilla campaign.

"The Soviet Union values the steady bilateral political

dialogue enabling both countries to compare approaches, co-ordinate steps and map directions of joint activity with regard to the key issues of international politics," Shevardnadze said in his message.

"The Soviet side is fully determined to develop this dialogue and perfect our political co-operation," he told Malmierca.

Despite the message's friendly tone, its reference to the need to co-ordinate steps and perfect political co-operation were clear indications of the differences that have emerged between the two nations.

Castro has adamantly rejected Soviet President Mikhail Gorba-

chev's "perestroika" drive to renew communism, saying greater freedom of expression, movement toward a more market-oriented economy and other changes are not applicable in his Caribbean nation.

Malmierca in his message to Shevardnadze called the Soviet Union "the great country of Soviet state founder Vladimir Lenin" in an allusion to its orthodox communist roots.

Castro said in a speech last December that Cuba would defend socialism "to the last drop of blood," and he lectured Gorbachev on conventional communism during the Soviet

leader's visit to Havana earlier in the year.

Moscow has continued to give Cuba more than \$5 billion a year, half its aid total to all Third World countries, but trade between the two nations declined last year and the Kremlin wants the exchange to become more balanced with an increase of Cuban exports to the Soviet Union.

Cuba yesterday accused the US air force of practising a simulated air strike against the island during weekend US military manoeuvres in the Caribbean.

But a US official in Havana, without addressing the specific

accusation, repeated a US government statement that three American military exercises being held in the Atlantic and the Caribbean were routine, unrelated and not aimed at Cuba.

Cuba started 24-hour jamming in Havana of Radio Marti, the US Spanish-language station transmitting from Miami, and said it would extend the jamming to the whole island.

The move was a further strengthening by Cuba of its electronic defences against incoming US television and radio broadcasts. Havana says these broadcasts are aimed at overthrowing its communist government.

Original plan was to kidnap De Gaulle

MADRID, May 8. (AP): The man who nearly succeeded in assassinating French president Charles De Gaulle in 1962 says the original plan by a group of disgruntled French army officers was to kidnap, try and then execute the general for allowing Algeria to become independent.

In an interview published in the Sunday section of the daily El Pais, Georges Henri Watin, better known as "The Jackal", said he only shot at — and barely missed — De Gaulle in his presidential vehicle in the French village of Petit Clamart when the plan went awry.

The incident was first dramatised in a novel by Frederick Forsythe called "The Day of the Jackal", which was later made into a film.

Watin, now a Paraguayan citizen who says he lives a hand-to-mouth existence, said the novelistic version of the Aug 22, 1962, plot bears no relation to what really happened.

"Reality is too dramatic. I know my own story, and one thing I have to make clear is that there was never a plan simply to kill the old man in Petit Clamart. The plan was to kidnap him, bring him to justice before a military court martial, and only then, execute him," Watin told Anton Fock, the author of the article.

He said the plan had been to kidnap De Gaulle at sunset, but that the officers who did all the figuring had used an almanac from the previous year and got the time wrong, and the presidential cortege arrived ahead of schedule.

"Suddenly I realised that the whole plan should be scrapped immediately," Watin said. "But by then it was too late."

Watin said he and the two other hired guns shot out the rear window and the two rear tires of De Gaulle's car.

"For a moment I looked directly at his (De Gaulle's) eyes. Our car was right alongside his, but he had calculated shooting at a car that was practically immobile," Watin said. "Later I learned I had missed him by just two centimetres."

In April 1961 four French generals based in Algiers and belonging to the Secret Army Organisation (OAS) staged an abortive coup attempt against De Gaulle's government.

Shortly after the Petit Clamart attack, De Gaulle, then 72, announced Algeria deserved to become independent, and negotiations were begun with the Algerian National Liberation Front (FLN).

On July 3, 1962, De Gaulle proclaimed Algeria independent.

Hair sample proves: regular drug user

Barry wasn't 'coerced' or 'induced'

WASHINGTON, May 8. (UPI): Tests on a hair sample taken from Mayor Marion Barry the night he was arrested on drug charges show that he was not coerced to smoke crack cocaine in a downtown hotel, a federal prosecutor said.

In documents filed yesterday in US district court, US attorney Jay Stephens said the forensic tests show Barry had used cocaine "repeatedly" in the six weeks before he was arrested Jan 18, and said at least a dozen witnesses will testify to that in the Mayor's drug possession and perjury trial next month.

The prosecutor said Rasheeda Moore, who acknowledged once having a "close, personal relationship" with the mayor, lured Barry to the Vista International Hotel, where they smoked crack.

Barry was then arrested by FBI agents in the hotel room.

The mayor's lawyer, R. Kenneth Mundy, has since argued that Barry was under the influence of alcohol when he agreed to take the drug, something he would not have done had he been in full control of his faculties.

Stephens said the tests performed on Barry's hair show he had not been "coerced" or "induced" by Moore to smoke crack in the hotel room, and that

an FBI surveillance tape of Barry and Moore that night show they "talked about their previous cocaine use."

In addition, the US attorney said, the government has at least a dozen witnesses who will testify at Barry's trial, scheduled to begin June 4, that they either used drugs with Barry, received drugs from him or provided drugs to him in the district of Columbia, the Virgin Islands and the Bahamas.

The witnesses also will testify that Barry was a regular cocaine user since 1984 and that he "frequently" smoked crack cocaine beginning in 1987, the prosecutor said.



Greetings from Pope

Pope John Paul II acknowledges hundreds of thousands of Mexican faithful shortly before celebrating mass in Chalco, near Mexico City on Monday. He is on the 2nd day of an 8-day visit to Mexico. (Reuters wirephoto)

'Shun fundamentalist sects'

Pope John Paul preaches in Mexico

VERACRUZ, Mexico, May 8. (Reuters): Pope John Paul II yesterday urged Catholics not to be seduced by Protestant fundamentalist sects, who have been making significant inroads in Latin America in recent years.

Speaking in this port city on the Gulf of Mexico, the Pope said Latin American Catholics should beware the "proselytising activity of the sects" and see to it that "the ambiguity and confusion they sow is slowed down."

He said Catholics should do this by turning to the traditional tenets of their faith — popular devotions to patron saints, intensified religious education and greater participation in the sacraments.

It was the Pope's second reference yesterday to Protestant sects. Earlier he told residents of a slum outside Mexico City to beware of "false shepherds" and "sects and groups who seek to lure you from the true flock."

The Roman Catholic church in Latin

America has been increasingly worried by the significant advance of the fundamentalist Evangelical sects, which have been luring Catholics away in growing numbers.

At their general assembly last year, Mexican bishops expressed concern about the growing activity of some three hundred Evangelical church sects who operate in Latin America. Many of them are based in the United States.

Increased activity by Evangelicals in the past 20 years has speeded up the traditionally low rate of conversions of Catholics to Protestantism throughout Latin America, and especially in Central America and Mexico.

Evangelical groups, some of which use television to increase their membership and raise funds, have appealed to various classes of Latin American society.

Most have tried to convert the poor. But others have appealed to middle class Latin Americans who do not agree with the

Vatican's bans on artificial birth control and divorce or who want a more outwardly emotional religious experience.

A 1986 Vatican report on the problem said the sects appeared to offer simple answers to complicated questions, more human warmth and support in small groups and strong charismatic leadership.

In 1983 the Vatican sent out a questionnaire to Latin American bishops, seeking to find out which religious aspirations were unmet by Catholicism and why some of the faithful were seeking the answers elsewhere.

Some Catholic bishops have suggested that the spread of Protestantism in Latin America is part of a larger political design by some sectors of US society to weaken the Roman Catholic church's influence in the continent.

Some Evangelical churches based in the southwestern United States broadcast Spanish-language religious television and radio programmes to Latin America.

Foreign officials arrive in San Jose

Calderon's inauguration

SAN JOSE, Costa Rica, May 8. (UPI): Foreign delegations arrived in Central America's only non-militarised country for the inauguration today of Rafael Angel Calderon and to congratulate outgoing President Oscar Arias.

Arias was to hand over power to Calderon in a four-hour ceremony at an outdoor sports stadium.

American First Lady Barbara Bush, all the Central American presidents and President Carlos Andres Perez of Venezuela were among the foreign dignitaries who arrived yesterday.

Nicaraguan President Violeta

Chamorro's arrival today would mark her first trip out of her government in both bordering nations — Panama and Nicaragua — the transfer of power in Costa Rica comes amid peace and relative prosperity.

"The government of El Salvador would like the Costa Rican government to continue its role of promoting peace in the region," Salvadoran President Alfredo Cristiani said yesterday after arriving in San Jose.

Cristiani said forthcoming talks with leftist Salvadoran rebels have given him hopes of stability, and "we now can have a new hope for economic aspects in El Salvador."

"This is an age where all of Latin America is following the path toward democracy," he said. "Cuba is the exception."

Endara said Costa Rica is a model for all Central America. "We want to have the same experience. Democracy to us is of the greatest importance," Endara said.

Barbara arrived last night, heading the US delegation. She delivered a personal letter to Calderon from President George Bush and said she wanted to "join all Costa Ricans in celebrating these most precious democratic activities."



Costa Rican President Oscar Arias (right) directs Barbara Bush, wife of the US President, as she arrives in San Jose on Monday. The first lady represented the US as Arias handed over the presidency to Rafael Calderon. (Reuters wirephoto)

Save the Amazon

LIMA, May 8. (Reuters): Amazon Indians from five countries will meet ecologists this week to try to persuade them that the native people are as much a part of the jungle as its trees and animals.

The Indians are respectful, the ecologists around the world, despite good intentions, have ignored them in campaigns to save the Amazon from disappearing at the hands of ranchers and developers.

"We are part of nature, but the ecologists have always shunned us. Until now, they have never let us become politically involved in the effort to save the Amazon," said Evaristo Nugkwa, a member of Peru's Aguaruna tribe.

Nugkwa and 30 other Indian leaders from Peru, Colombia, Brazil, Bolivia and Ecuador will meet environmental leaders from around the world from Wednesday to Sunday at an agreement which the Indians hope will take their interests into account.

"The time is ripe for an accord on the basis of the principle that the Amazon is our home," said Nugkwa, president of a regional coalition known as the Co-ordinating Body for the Indigenous People's Organizations of the Amazon Basin (Cobip).

Israel offers documents to prove arms not destined for Colombia

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, May 8. (AP): Israel presented documents today as proof that Israeli-made weapons which wound up in the hands of a Colombian drug boss were sent to Antigua at the request of officials from the Caribbean nation.

The file of 14 documents were handed over to a visiting Antiguan delegation and some were shown to foreign reporters by Israeli officials.

They included an end-user certificate signed by Antigua's top defence official, Vere Bird Jr., assuring Israel that the arms were for the exclusive use of the security forces in the Caribbean island nation.

In March 1989, Israel's Defence Ministry said 400 Galil assault rifles and 100 mini-Uzi sub-machine-guns were

shipped to Antigua and reached their destination.

The Haaretz newspaper said the value of the arms deal was about \$2.2 million.

Israeli officials said they didn't know how the weapons ended up on the ranch of Gonzalo Rodriguez Gacha, a drug lord who was killed in a shootout with Colombian police last December. About 200 of the Galil guns were confiscated.

The Antiguan delegation, headed by Patrick Lewis, and Antiguan diplomat at the United Nations, arrived last night to investigate the affair. He was accompanied by three US lawyers. They met today with Foreign Ministry officials, including the head of the Latin American desk.

"Israel asked the Antiguan delegation how and why a

promise made to Israel on the end-user guarantee was broken and how items of an arms deal supplied to Antigua finally arrived in private hands in another country," said Moti Amichai, a Foreign Ministry spokesman.

Amichai said Israel asked the delegation to quickly and thoroughly examine why the promise was not kept. The Antiguan delegation will also meet with other Israelis involved with the deal, but Amichai would not give details.

At a briefing, reporters were shown three documents, each of which were written in English on official Antiguan stationery which bore nation's coat of arms.

These included a letter signed by Antiguan Cabinet Secretary Lionel Stevens. Dated May 16, 1985, it appointed Maurice Sarfati as a special envoy of Antigua's Min-

istry of Foreign Affairs.

The New York Times said Sarfati, who owned a debt-ridden produce business in Antigua, and Israeli Army reserve Col Yair Klein directed the diversion of weapons to Colombia.

Amichai said he could not say if Sarfati was an Israeli citizen or had any other links with Israel. A woman who answered a telephone registered to a Maurice Sarfati in Tel Aviv said Sarfati moved to the United States three years ago.

The United States has told Israel it is concerned about weapons shipment from the Jewish state that ended up in the hands of Colombian drug traffickers, the State Department said yesterday.



Wrong target

Belgian police and forensic experts search for clues after a shot fired by a policeman ricocheted and killed a 23-year-old woman during a demonstration by Belgian munitions workers. (Reuters wirephoto)

De Klerk trip to win support

An important test

JOHANNESBURG, May 8, (AP) — President F.W. de Klerk departs today on a major tour of West Europe to seek international support for his efforts to end white rule and share power with South Africa's black majority.

South African officials say De Klerk's tour of nine nations is the most important foreign trip by a South African leader in decades and an important test of South Africa's efforts to end its international isolation.

The government's hopes of improving its international standing after years of isolation and sanctions were boosted after it reached an agreement with the African National Congress last week after their first ever talks. The two sides agreed to work together to end political violence and clear the way for full constitutional talks on ending white-minority rule.

In a sign of new willingness to deal with South Africa, French President Francois Mitterrand, who has shunned South African leaders in the past, will hold talks with De Klerk. The South African leader will also see British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, King Juan Carlos of Spain and numerous presidents and prime ministers.

De Klerk begins his trip in France, and then goes on to Belgium, Italy, West Germany, Britain, Spain, Switzerland, Greece and Portugal. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs said it is the most extensive trip by a South African head of state since the ruling National Party came to power in 1948.

South African political analysts say the most important aspect of the trip is De Klerk's hope of easing South Africa's diplomatic and political isolation. De Klerk, who has launched major reforms to end apartheid, will explain his actions and plans to European governments.

De Klerk will also be looking for support for his political plans. West European nations have been an important source of aid and support for the anti-apartheid African National Congress and De Klerk hopes they will help to control more radical black elements that oppose any peaceful solution with the white government.

Business Day newspaper said in an editorial today that European leaders will be eager personally to assess De Klerk's plans and gauge his commitment to reform.

"If he survives this scrutiny he can fairly expect the Europeans to step back and let matters in South Africa take their course, at a pace to be determined by South Africans. He will have won himself years of grace," the paper said.

The justice minister said yesterday the government wants to grant amnesty to "political offenders" to improve the climate for black-white negotiations on a new constitution.

Justice Minister Kabe Coetsee told Parliament in Cape Town that exiles and political prisoners must be allowed to participate in talks aimed at ending white domination and bringing the black majority into the national government.

Angola rebels claim victory

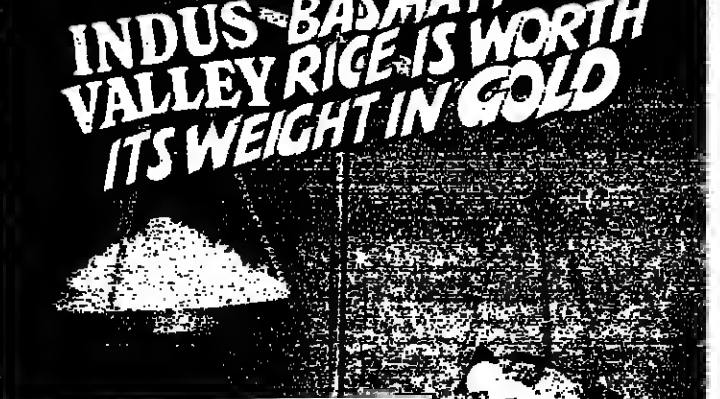
LISBON, May 8, (AP) — The US-backed rebels in Angola claimed today they had routed government forces after a three-day battle in the southeastern part of the African country.

Portuguese news media reports, meanwhile, indicated fighting could be closing on Luanda, Angola's capital.

A rebel statement released to Lisbon said 139 government soldiers were killed during the battle near Mavinga, 1,200 kilometres (700 miles) southeast of Luanda.

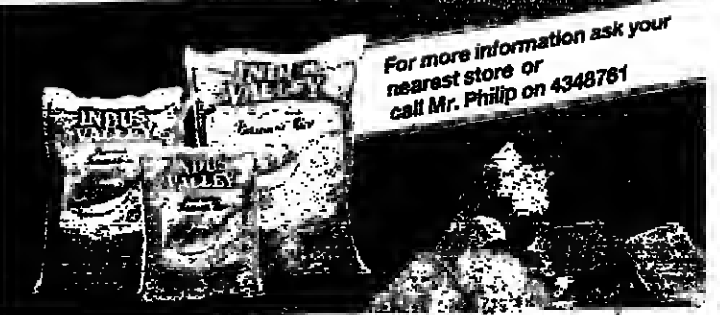
The Portuguese news agency Lusa reported from Luanda that Gen. Antonio Dos Santos N'Dalu was nominated to command the Bengo-Cuanza front, a sign that fighting was as close as 60 kilometres (38 miles) northeast of the capital.

There was no confirmation from Angolan officials that fighting was so close to Luanda.



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Rainbow Warrior: France violated pact

PARIS, May 8, (AP) — A special tribunal ruled yesterday that France's release of two agents from their detention on a Pacific atoll substantially violated an agreement concluded after the 1985 fatal sinking of the Greenpeace flagship Rainbow Warrior.

But the tribunal rejected New Zealand's demand the spies be made to finish serving their sentences.

Commander Alain Mafart and Capt. Dominique Prieur were convicted in New Zealand courts of taking part in the sink-

ing of the Rainbow Warrior in Auckland harbour, where it was preparing to lead a protest flotilla to a French nuclear testing site in the South Pacific. A Greenpeace photographer died in the sinking.

A UN-brokered agreement in July 1986 called for Mafart and Prieur to be released from New Zealand jail and to serve three-year sentences on the Pacific atoll of Hao, an isolated, French military base. They were to have no contact with the outside world.

But Mafart was brought back to France in Dec 1987 after complaining of a

stomach ailment and Prieur was evacuated in May 1988 because of her pregnancy and her father's poor health.

Both agents received promotions on their return to France.

The tribunal, set up after the agents' return, ruled that evacuating Mafart was within the limits of the accord, but that failing to return him to the remote atoll was a "substantial violation." It also said the evacuation of Prieur and the failure to return her were violations.

However, the tribunal ruled that France

was no longer obliged to return either officer to the atoll, its obligations having expired in July 1989, when the officers' three-year term was to have ended.

The tribunal also recommended that France contribute \$2 million to a special fund that would encourage friendly relations between the two countries.

New Zealand's representative to the three-man tribunal noted in an annex his disagreement with the ruling that the two spies not be made to finish out their sentences.

Deputies elected to try Papa

ATHENS, May 8, (AP) — Parliament yesterday elected nine deputies to act as prosecutors in the trials of former Socialist government officials accused of corruption in office.

Former Premier Andreas Papandreu was indicted by Parliament last September on charges of involvement in a \$210 million bank scandal and of authorising the wiretapping of political friends and foes.

Four former cabinet members have been charged along with Papandreu of alleged involvement in the Bank of Crete scandal.

Former intelligence service chief Costas Tsimas, now a deputy in the European Parliament, is accused of involvement in the wiretapping scandal.

The men face possible prison sentences of five years to life if convicted on the charges. Their trial dates have not been set.

The trial of a former Deputy Finance Minister Nikos Athanasiou has been scheduled for May 28. He is accused of covering up a 9,000-tonne corn sale that defrauded the European Economic Community of trade levies in 1986.

Two deputies from the ruling Conservative New Democracy Party were elected to act as prosecutors in each case, and one from the communist-led coalition of the left and progress. Two New Democracy deputies and one coalition deputy also were elected as substitute prosecutors in each case.

Winnie punched, whipped captives

JOHANNESBURG, May 8, (AP) — Nelson Mandela's wife, Winnie, repeatedly whipped, punched and slapped three men and a teenager who had been abducted and held captive in her home, a witness testified yesterday at the trial of one of her bodyguards.

Stompie Seipei, a 14-year-old anti-apartheid activist, was found stabbed to death on Jan 6, 1989, and Winnie's former bodyguard, Jerry Richardson, is accused of killing the youth.

Richardson has pleaded innocent to charges of murder, attempted murder, four counts of kidnapping and five counts of assault.

Eight other bodyguards, charged with lesser crimes, will be tried later.

Affidavits

Three survivors of the beatings, allegedly administered in late December 1988, have given sworn affidavits saying Winnie and her bodyguards participated in the assaults on them and on Stompie. Police have said they are investigating, but have given no reason why Winnie has not been charged with assault.

Kenneth Kgase, 30, the first witness to testify in Richardson's trial, which started last Wednesday, told of how the four were abducted by Winnie's bodyguards and assaulted at her home.

Kgase said Stompie was accused of being a police informer, was beaten more severely than the others and was unable to eat when he was taken away from the home by Richardson.

Kgase has testified that Winnie came into the room where they were being held and told them they were "not fit to live." He said that she was told by others in the room that they had had homosexual relations with a Methodist minister who ran the house where they had been staying in Soweto, the black township outside Johannesburg.

Beatings

The Methodist church says it has investigated the accusation and cleared the minister.

No one has testified as to why the older three people might have been abducted or why Winnie or her bodyguards would care about alleged homosexual relations.

After hearing the accusations, and without giving them a chance to respond, Winnie assaulted all four in turn, Kgase testified in court yesterday.

She slapped, punched and whipped them and pulled their hair, Kgase said. After she left the room, Kgase said the bodyguards also known as the Mandela United Soccer Team, assaulted the four captives.

Kgase said the four were lifted shoulder high and dropped on the floor, and that the bodyguards hit them on the knees with shoe heels and empty bottles.

Kgase also said Stompie pleaded with a man who repeatedly kicked him. When the beatings ended, Kgase said, they were forced to clean their blood from the floor, using a broom and water hose.

Leaders of major anti-apartheid organisations in South Africa accused Winnie of "complicity in the abductions and assault" of the four people, and said her bodyguards had waged a "reign of terror" in Soweto.

Although they were officially called a soccer team, Winnie's 20 or so bodyguards, all of whom were in their teens or early 20s, seldom played soccer. Most of the time they accompanied Winnie to public meetings, wearing warm-up suits, singing liberation songs and intimidating anyone they didn't approve of.

They also repeatedly clashed with police, journalists, other activists and youth gangs in Soweto.

AMBASCIATA D'ITALIA AVISO AI CITTADINI ITALIANI

Si informano i cittadini italiani residenti in Qatar che la Legge N.470 del 27.10.1988 prevede l'obbligo di iscriversi nell'Anagrafe degli Italiani Residenti all'Estero (AIRE). Gli interessati potranno rivolgersi a:

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Warns of 'ecological Armageddon'

Charles praises East Europeans

BUDAPEST, May 8, (AP) — Britain's Prince Charles, on his first visit to a Warsaw pact country, today praised East Europeans for casting off communism but warned that the region faces an "ecological Armageddon."

Speaking in the shadow of a statue of Karl Marx at a Budapest university that until recently bore the name of the father of communism, Charles was strident in his condemnation of Stalinism.

In the name of Karl Marx, Lenin and Stalin charted a course that divided Russia from Europe and then, after the Second World War, forcibly removed Hungary from Western Europe, turning half of Europe into a form of Marxist prison camp," he said.

Holding out hope that Russia "may one day return to the West," Charles praised Hungary's role in the revolutions of 1989.

"All of the re-emerging democracies of Europe owe Hungary a debt," Charles said, noting that Hungary was the first Warsaw Pact nation to cut the iron curtain.

Hungary "hammered the first hole in the Berlin Wall" by allowing thousands of East Germans to flee West last summer, and it was a Hungarian pastor, Laszlo Toebes, whose



An old Hungarian man sneaks a kiss as Princess Diana makes her way through the scrum of Hungarian police and press yesterday. The Prince and Princess of Wales are on the second day of a four-day official visit. (Reuters wirephoto)

persecution triggered the revolt that brought down Romania's Nicolae Ceausescu, he said.

Charles attributed the success of

Hungary's peaceful transition to democracy and Eastern Europe's liberation from communism to the preservation by inhabitants of inner

spirit and Western identity. Europeans can now "reshape the moral and political future of our continent," Charles said.

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INTERNATIONAL

Cyclone moves toward India

HYDERABAD, May 8, (UPI): Relief workers today evacuated more than 100,000 people from the projected path of a hurricane that was gaining power as it swept across the Bay of Bengal toward low-lying coastal areas of southern Andhra Pradesh state, officials said.

Heavy rains and winds moving ahead of the hurricane pounded coastal areas of Andhra Pradesh and the neighbouring state of Tamil Nadu for a second straight day, inundating vast swaths of land and disrupting normal life, officials said.

Army and naval personnel were placed on alert in both states, even though the threat appeared to have receded in Tamil Nadu, they said.

They said relief workers moved to limit casualties, evacuating more than 100,000 people from low-lying coastal areas of Andhra Pradesh that were expected to bear the brunt of the storm.

The evacuees were settled in more than 350 relief camps pitched on high ground. Officials said that three people were electrocuted late yesterday in the Tamil Nadu state capital of Madras, where several business districts were submerged in waist-deep water.

The hurricane spawned by a low pressure area over the Bay of Bengal had originally appeared headed toward Madras, but veered in a northwestern direction and lay centred about 110 miles (180 km) east of the Andhra Pradesh rice-growing centre of Nellore.

Weather officials said that an analysis of data indicated the hurricane, packing winds of about 125 miles (200 kmph), was expected to make landfall late today between Nellore and Machilipatnam, about 200 miles (320 km) southeast of the state capital of Hyderabad.

The officials said the hurricane was gaining in strength and developing dangerously, posing the most serious natural threat to coastal areas since a 1977 storm that left thousands dead.

The Andhra Pradesh government ordered the hoisting of the maximum danger signal for marine craft at the port towns of Kakinda, Machilipatnam, Nizampatnam and Krishnapatnam, the Press Trust of India said.

Colombo steps up security for MPS

COLOMBO, May 8, (UPI): The Sri Lankan government today decided to increase the security given to Tamil members of parliament (MPs) resident in Colombo and tighten security for them, according to a high-ranking security official.

The decision came following the killing yesterday of a Tamil Member of Parliament, Sam Tambimuttu, from the eastern province by unknown gunmen.

Meanwhile, a crack team of detectives from the Criminal Investigation Department and the army intelligence was put on the trail of the killers of Tambimuttu, the official said.

The team this morning visited the scene of the crime and questioned several persons who had witnessed the killing which took place in broad daylight.

Yogasangari, Member of Parliament representing the Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front said today the government should take responsibility for the killing of Tambimuttu.

'Taipei a city of lust'

Girlie restaurants, bars everywhere

TAIPEI, May 8, (UPI): A visitor to Taipei could be excused for thinking its men are the best groomed in the world — hundreds upon hundreds of gaudy, neon-lit barber shops line the city's streets.

But customers who slip through the front doors are not looking for a trim and a shave. The barber shops offer sex, and are just one part of a prostitution industry that is flourishing along with the rest of Taiwan's economy.

"Taipei is a city of lust," says city councillor Yen Chin-Fu. "Girlie restaurants and bars are everywhere, even in residential and school areas. Some are next to police stations."

Several feminist groups are trying to fight back, but so far have had little success. "As our society gets richer, it is also getting more corrupt," said Chen Yi-Chen of the women's rescue foundation.

A decade ago, prostitution in Taipei was largely centred in the suburb of Peitou, known for its hot springs and hostesses who sing melancholy folk songs at hotels and restaurants.

But as the economy grew dramatically in the 1980s, so did the sex industry. Yen estimates Taipei has more than 5,000 restaurants, bars and other establishments selling sex.



Raided and bombed

More than 20 students from Seoul universities raided the Seoul headquarters of the ruling Democratic Liberal Party (DLP) on Monday, occupying the building for about 10 minutes. The students threw petrol bombs from inside the building, smashed windows with sticks and shouted "Down with the DLP" and "Overthrow Roh Tae-woo," before they were overpowered by South Korean riot police. (Reuters wirephoto)

Help to prevent chaos

Roh calls on Koreans

SEOUL, May 8, (AP): President Roh Tae-woo asked South Koreans yesterday to help prevent the nation from slipping into "chaos," but dissidents and radical students stepped up anti-government protests.

Radical students armed with firebombs, steel pipes and rocks battled riot police or attacked ruling party offices in Seoul and several other cities. Dissidents vowed to hold anti-Roh rallies this week across the nation.

Even as Roh spoke in a nationally televised address, 21 students armed with firebombs and iron pipes charged into the Seoul headquarters of Roh's Liberal Democratic Party and seized a third-floor office.

Riot police overpowered the protesters with clubs and tear gas about 10 minutes later. Witnesses said five protesters and policemen were injured. Office windows, furniture and the windshields of three cars were smashed and a guard post was partly burned.

Radical students long have demanded that Roh resign, contending his government is a puppet of the US government.

The protesters also scattered leaflets demanding the ouster of US Ambassador Donald Gregg. The leaflets accused Gregg of devising this year's merger of South Korea's governing party with two conservative opposition groups to serve US interests.

About 2,500 students fought police with firebombs and rocks outside campuses in four provincial cities and two small towns outside Seoul, said Yonhap, the South Korean news agency.

Yonhap said radical students firebombed ruling party offices in two other cities — Taegon and Wonju. There was minor damage but no injuries or arrests were reported, it said.

But dissident groups called for protests tomorrow in 17 cities aimed at forcing the governing party to disband.

Khmer Rouge gather support

Despite killings record

SREY LA OH, Cambodia, May 8, (AP): Convoys of Khmer Rouge trucks filled with the recent rice harvest move freely through this rural village in northwest Cambodia, and young guerrilla fighters flirt with related villages.

"We are very happy to be back in our country," said Khmer Rouge division commander Mit Soc over coconut juice as Cambodian government military rumbled in the distance.

In a scene played out in scores of villages in rural Cambodia in recent months, Pol Pot's Khmer Rouge have returned to areas they were driven out of when Vietnamese forces invaded Cambodia in late 1978 and installed a pro-Hanoi government.

To much of the world, the Khmer Rouge are fanatics who killed hundreds of thousands of their countrymen during the 1970s in a savage bid to create a communist agrarian society.

But despite the widely held perception that they continue to be universally despised, the Khmer Rouge maintain significant and increasing support in the long-neglected, poor villages of this ravaged country.

Since the announced pullout of Vietnamese troops in September, the Khmer Rouge have seized hundreds of villages in the north, west and south of the country.

Khmer Rouge officials in Cambodia and Western intelligence sources in Bangkok, Thailand, say the group is attracting followers by tapping the deep suspicion most Cambodians harbour for their historical enemy, Vietnam.

The Khmer Rouge contend that Vietnam intends to "swallow" Cambodia. They allege that despite the pledged Vietnamese withdrawal, Vietnamese troops secretly remain in Cambodia disguised as Cambodian soldiers.

Although human rights groups have described strict regimentation and brutality in Khmer Rouge-controlled areas over the past decade, the guerrillas seem to have abandoned their harsh practices — at least temporarily.

Analysis is quick to point out that most Cambodians still loathe the Khmer Rouge and note that Pol Pot, Kbleu Sampan and other leaders who presided over the 1975-78 reign of terror are still in charge. There is fear that if the Khmer Rouge were to return to power, their murderous ways would simply resurface.

But the analysts say the Khmer Rouge have managed to maintain a support network throughout rural Cambodia and have been able to recruit fighters since being driven to sanctuaries along the Thai-Cambodian border after the Vietnamese invasion.

"If they were that evil, they wouldn't have survived the last 11 years. There must be something they are doing that we are still in charge of," said a Singapore Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew told the British newspaper the Independent in a recent interview.

China rebels still at large

BEIJING, May 8, (UPI): Some Muslims in far western China who waged a brief "holy war" against Chinese rule in which 22 people died last month are still at large, a local newspaper has reported.

"Those criminals who assume they have been lucky and attempt to get by without being detected better understand that only by confessing will they receive... lenient disposal," said Amudun Niyaz, deputy secretary of the Communist Party committee in the Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region.

The official Xinjiang daily newspaper's May 2 edition, seen in Beijing today, said he warned those who "choose to resist to the very end" that "what awaits them can only be their own destruction."

Amudun was speaking at a mass meeting in Baren township, Akto county, in western Xinjiang, where Muslims clashed with Chinese security forces on April 5-6. Fifteen protesters, an Uygur official and six policemen were killed and 19 police officers wounded, official reports said.

Local television reports said "reactionary elements" in Baren had formed the Islamic Party of East Turkistan and proclaimed the holy war to establish an independent republic.

Tensions between the majority Han Chinese and Muslim ethnic minorities, especially the Uygurs, always have been high and have boiled into violence in the past.

The Xinjiang daily reported earlier this month on unspecified "hot spots" and quoted regional officials as calling for better police riot training and intelligence work.

Unofficial religious schools in Xinjiang have been shut down recently and Muslim imams who violated laws against proselytizing were stripped of their religious status.

Although unofficial reports reached Beijing within days of the April clashes, the official media ignored them for weeks and officials refused to comment.

Foreign journalists repeatedly have been denied permission to visit Xinjiang.

The handful of official reports that finally emerged never said whether any arrests were made or how many people were involved in the unrest.

At the time, foreign tourists in Xinjiang said clashes also occurred in the ancient bazaar city of Kashgar, Heilan and Kuqa, but officials reports did not mention unrest anywhere but Baren.

KATMANDU, May 8, (UPI): Nepal yesterday abolished the post of zonal commissioner, doing away with a key element in the monarchy's monopoly on power, state-run radio said.

Meanwhile, a leading member of the opposition party said King Birendra has assured leaders of the opposition-led government that he will co-operate with their decisions and not get in the way of Nepal's march to democracy.

In an evening radio broadcast, Prime Minister Krishna Prasad Bhattarai announced that the post of zonal commissioner had been abolished.

Bhattarai, a longtime opposition leader, was

2 found dead in Kashmir

Police officer killed in Punjab

SRINAGAR, May 8, (AP): A 16-year-old girl was killed yesterday in crossfire between Muslim separatists and security forces, and two kidnapping victims were found dead by a river, officials and news reports said.

An anti-Indian strike, meanwhile, shut down this troubled city. Muslim militants hurled a grenade at infantry soldiers in the city's center, injuring three troops. Soldiers returned fire and wounded five militants, security officials said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The deaths brought to at least 352 the number of people killed since Jan 20 when India launched a crackdown in Jammu-Kashmir State on a movement for an independent Muslim nation.

Police said the girl, identified only as Dolly, died instantly during the shootout last morning. United News of India reported the bodies of Prof. Kundanlal Ganjoo and his wife were found on the banks of the Jelum river, just north of Srinagar. The couple were kidnapped on Saturday by suspected militants.

Security forces closed off the area and were conducting house-to-house searches for their slayers, the news report said. Ganjoo was a professor in the college of agriculture in Sopore, north of Srinagar.

In Srinagar, troops flooded the city yesterday as government workers opened offices for the summer. Every year, offices of the capital are moved from Jammu in the south to Srinagar.

Commandos lined the streets to the government secretariat and placed barricades outside government buildings. Government workers were moved to work in police vehicles, accompanied by troops in jeeps and troop trucks.

Bands of Muslim youths stoned some of the vehicles carrying government workers. Some youths snatched the identity cards of government workers.

A city-wide strike, called by Muslim separatist groups, brought the city to a standstill. Shops and businesses remained closed throughout the day.

Posters on the walls of Srinagar had called the strike to protest the annual movement of the capital and warned of reprisals if their orders were not obeyed. Most Muslim government workers also stayed away from their jobs, official sources said.

Sikh extremists in Punjab state today killed at least 11 people, including a senior police commander who died when militants in a speeding truck rammed his car, police and news reports said.

Extremists also robbed 450,000 rupees from a Punjab National Bank vehicle, injuring two security guards in the process, the Press Trust of India reported.

Authorities said Sikh militants driving a truck smashed into a car carrying H. B. Chand, 39, the superintendent of police operations for the police district centred on the holy city of Amritsar.

Chand died from his injuries while en route to a hospital following the 2:30 pm incident, said P. Ramkishan, deputy inspector-general for the Central Reserve Police Force.

Three other passengers in the car — including a person identified only as Dr. Sidharth, the brother-in-law of Amritsar police chief Sanjeev Gupta — suffered injuries and were taken to a hospital.

Ramkishan said Chand was on his way from the Punjab state capital of Chandigarh to Amritsar when the incident occurred on the Grand Truck Road, about 20 miles (35 km) south of Amritsar. Chand's car overturned after it was rammed off the highway, he said.

ISLAMABAD, May 8, (AP): A lower court has overturned a decision by Pakistan's deputy finance minister to set up a stock exchange because it presented a conflict of interest.

The Lahore High Court ruled the decision by Ishaq-ul-Haq Piracha, the minister of state for finance, to set up the Islamabad Stock Exchange was illegal because he named a company in which he had an interest to run the operation.

"It's a clear act of favouritism," the court said on Sunday. The decision came a month before the government is scheduled to present its 1990 budget, and fuelled speculation that Piracha will resign from his post.

But Piracha said he had no intention of stepping down and vowed to appeal to Pakistan's highest court. "Why should I resign? The judgement is not the final stage. I will go to the Supreme Court and challenge it," he said.

Temple construction matters not

BJP will support V. P. Singh

NEW DELHI, May 8, (Agencies): Right-wing Bharatiya Janata Party General Secretary Jagdish Mathur today said that his party would continue to support the V. P. Singh government even if it did not allow the construction of a local temple at Ayodhya.

He said his party would withdraw support to the National Front government only if the communists joined the ministry.

Asked to comment on the arrest of Hindu leader Shankaracharya Swaroopnand Saraswati, he said the Dravida Sear's arrest should have been avoided. He urged the Shankaracharya not to raise any controversy over the foundation of the Ram Mandir.

He said in case, the government does not allow to construct the temple at Ayodhya, BJP workers will be free to join the agitation in their individual capacity.

Mathur was speaking at Hindu holy city of Mathura, where communal clashes occurred recently. Mathur said if the present Uttar Pradesh government stopped its policy of "appeasing" Muslims and allowed the Vishwa Hindu Parishad to construct temple at Ayodhya, there would be no bloodshed.

If the government refused to hand over the Ram Temple construction site to Hindus, it will be taken by Hindus through sangharsh, he said. About Kashmir he said "if there is any dialogue with Pakistan on Kashmir it should be on our terms."

Woerner rules out N-free Germany

WASHINGTON, May 8, (UPI):

Nato Secretary-General Manfred Woerner ruled out the idea of making Germany nuclear-free as a way to obtain an agreement from the Soviet Union to allow a unified Germany nation to be a member of Nato.

"I think it's unanimously accepted by all member nations of this alliance that there should be no denuclearisation, neither of Europe nor of Germany... It would not be acceptable to our alliance," he said.

Woerner and Defence Secretary Dick Cheney were to travel together today to Alberta, Canada, to Wednesday's opening of the two-day, semi-annual meeting of Nato's nuclear planning group of defence ministers.

It will be the first Nato ministerial meeting since President Bush announced last week that the United States will not replace Lance short-range nuclear missiles and nuclear artillery in Europe with new, more powerful versions.

Bush also called for a Nato summit of heads of state, tentatively set for early July, to review the political and military strategy of the alliance in the wake of major democratic reforms in Eastern Europe.

"What I want to achieve during the NPG meeting, first, is to confirm the adjustments to the posture announced by President Bush regarding the Lance follow-on, regarding nuclear artillery," Woerner told reporters yesterday.

"Then I think we will reaffirm the willingness to move to minimum (nuclear) deterrence," he said.

"I think we will ask the Saccor (Supreme Allied Commander Europe, Gen. John Galvin) to look into our stockpile for the future posture of nuclear weapons."

"Then I think we have to reaffirm certain essential principles... We cannot and will not renounce nuclear weapons as such. We want to have a minimum level, if possible, agreed with the Soviets. But we cannot renounce."

Cheney plans to "explain elements" of Bush's speech to the Nato members and "to try and enlist their support," a senior US defence official said.

The members will also try to set guidelines for the Nato study on the future numbers and types of nuclear weapons needed in Europe, said the US official, who spoke on the condition he not be identified.

Neither Woerner nor US officials would estimate when such a study might be completed.

The US official said Nato members will not be asked to agree to future deployment of an air-launched nuclear missile to replace the aging short-range nuclear missiles in Europe.

"It's not a question at this point," the official said, disclosing that the alliance at an NPG meeting in April 1988 committed itself to air modernisation, which included the tactical air-to-surface missile (Tasm) under development in the United States.

"The focus (of the NPG meeting) is to answer the mail on the president's initiative and to figure out how to do the study," he said. "There is no issue pending on Tasm."

US to destroy smallpox virus

GENEVA, May 8, (Reuters): The United States said today it would destroy its remaining stocks of live smallpox virus and urged the Soviet Union to do the same.

US Health Secretary Louis Sullivan told an annual meeting of the World Health Organisation (WHO) there was no reason to keep samples of the virus — retained so far for scientific reasons — now the disease had been eradicated.

Sullivan said eradication of smallpox, an ancient scourge that has killed and scarred millions through the centuries, had been a major triumph for international medical co-operation.

The WHO launched a major campaign against smallpox in 1959. It ended in 1980 when the UN agency officially declared it dead.

The last known case occurred in Britain in 1978 when a woman died after contracting it in a laboratory accident.

Koirala met King Birendra on Sunday at the royal palace. He said the king assured him that a commission for drafting a new constitution would be constituted soon.

Nepalese Christians yesterday demanded an end to a 32-year-old law banning religious conversion and called for the establishment of a secular state in this Hindu kingdom.

The call came as 1,500 Protestants kicked off a five-day religious convention organised by the Kathmandu-based Nepal Christian Fellowship.

There are 14 zones in the country headed by commissioners directly appointed by the king. Nepali Congress alleges that these zonal commissioners were responsible for suppressing democracy activists during the movement.

Hundreds of people were arrested and the opposition claims hundreds were also killed during the campaign for multi-party democracy.

Yesterday, Nepali Congress Party Secretary-General, Girija Prasad Koirala urged that legal action be taken against at least seven zonal commissioners who he said were responsible for

Estonia drops 'Soviet Socialist'

Baltic republic takes another measured step toward independence

TALLINN, USSR, May 8, (AP): Estonia dropped the words "Soviet Socialist" from its name today and adopted its old tricolor national flag in place of the red banner of socialism as the tiny Baltic republic took another measured step toward independence.

The Estonian parliament, without formally declaring independence, reinstituted several paragraphs from its 1938 constitution, including an opening proclamation that Estonia is "an independent republic, with the supreme state power vested in the people."

Nationalist parliamentarians regard the move as another step in a phased march toward independence and not in itself a formal break with Moscow.

A small crowd gathered in the Cobblestone Square to see what would follow. But there was no immediate attempt to cover the giant hammer and sickle crest that has adorned the front of the building since Estonia was forcibly incorporated into the Soviet Union a half century ago.

Estonia, which in November 1988 became the first of the 15 Soviet republics to proclaim its sovereignty from Moscow, has taken repeated steps in recent months to establish a separate identity without provoking a confrontation with President Mikhail Gorbachev over the issue of independence.

Lithuania, which declared independence on March 11, is now the target of an economic blockade in which the Kremlin has cut the flow of oil, natural gas and other critical supplies.

The third Baltic republic, Latvia, declared independence on May 4, and is now waiting to hear whether Gorbachev will impose sanctions similar to those he slapped on Lithuania.

President Gorbachev accused nationalists in the Soviet Union of using "the atmosphere of democracy, glasnost and freedom" to pursue "their futile, ambitious plans" for independence from Moscow.

Gorbachev, speaking Monday to a gathering of veterans in the Kremlin during celebrations marking the end of World War II, said those intent on seceding from the Soviet Union are pushing an "irresponsible policy leading to a deadlock."

The account of Gorbachev's speech reported by the official Tass news agency failed to mention any particular separatist group.

An appeal printed on the front page of the republic's Communist Party newspaper said pro-independence leaders "did not consider it necessary to ask the people: Do they want a return to unemployment, lawlessness and oppression? Do they want hunger, cold and bankruptcy as in neighbouring Lithuania?"

Meanwhile, Lithuanian Prime Minister Kazimieras Pranskietis arrived in Britain today to ask for help from her counterpart, Margaret Thatcher, in gaining independence from Moscow for her homeland.

Noo-Latvians make up 46 percent of the population and most of the urban working class in the republic, whose leaders declared independence on May 4 but have not asked for an immediate break with Moscow.

Latvia's newly-elected prime minister said the sister Baltic republics of Lithuania and Estonia must close ranks with it in their struggle for independence from Moscow.

The premier, economist Ivars Godmanis, was clearly referring to the possibility that the Kremlin would order economic blockades similar to the one imposed on Lithuania, which declared independence on March 11.

Godmanis pictured during a parliamentary session in Riga May 7. (Reuters wirephoto)

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The parliament also declared that the step, in large part symbolic, was intended as a show of solidarity with the sister Baltic republics of Lithuania and Latvia, which have declared full independence.

The vote today was 73 in favour, 14 against and two abstentions. Eight other members present didn't vote, and eight others were absent. The measure passed with three votes more than the required two-thirds majority of the legislature's total membership.

Minutes after the vote was taken in the Estonian Supreme Soviet, or parliament, the red flag with its hammer and sickle was lowered from the roof of the ancient parliament building. The flag used by Estonia when it was independent — with cornflower blue, black and white stripes — went up in its place.

Kohl rejects Soviet plan

BONN, May 8, (Reuters): West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl today rejected a Soviet suggestion that Bonn could rapidly unite with East Germany then sort out the tricky problem of military alliances later.

Kohl said the idea that solutions to the external problems of unity — such as a united Germany's membership of Nato — could be put on ice did not correspond at all to his views.

"It would be fatal," he told reporters. Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze said on Saturday a solution to the controversial issue of whether a united Germany could belong to Nato could be put off for a few years, allowing the two states to merge beforehand.

Kohl said his government wanted to stick to its timetable, which meant the external aspects of unification, such as membership of the Western alliance Nato, should be sorted out by the autumn.

East and West Germany, along with the three Western wartime allies — the United States, France and Britain — support full Nato membership but with the concession to Moscow that no Nato troops would enter former East German territory.

The Soviet Union, the fourth of the World War Two victors taking part in talks with East and West Germany on security aspects of unification, rejects this and has suggested neutrality, non-alignment or dual membership of Nato and the Soviet-led Warsaw Pact as alternatives.

Hans-Jochen Vogel, head of the opposition Social Democrats, said the Soviet idea "still requires detailed explanation, in view of its importance and consequences."

According to translations of Shevardnadze's speech that have appeared in the German press, he envisions the four World War II victors keeping troops on German soil "for a few years" after unification until the dispute is settled.

Officials in East and West Berlin said yesterday they have set a target date of July 2 to drop all border controls and provide full, unhindered access between the two sides of the city.

The comments came after East Germany's first free local elections, in which the Social Democrats emerged as the strongest party in East Berlin.

The Social Democrats, who won 34.3 per cent of the vote in Sunday's local elections in East Berlin, also offered coalition talks to other major groups in a move designed to keep the communists out of the local government.



French President Francois Mitterrand (centre) lays a wreath of flowers on the tomb of the Unknown Soldier, during a ceremony to commemorate armistice day at the Arc de Triomphe yesterday (Reuters wirephoto)

27m Soviets died in World War Two: Warsaw Pact

MOSCOW, May 8, (Reuters): The commander-in-chief of the Warsaw Pact said yesterday that the Soviet Union lost at least 27 million people in World War Two, seven million more than what for years was the official death toll.

General Pyotr Lushchey, who is also a first deputy defence minister, said in an interview with the official Tass news agency: "In 1946, Stalin said seven million Soviet citizens died ... Khrushchev made public data listing losses at 20 million."

Headed: "Today, after serious analysis, we know that the Soviet Union lost 27-28 million people during the war."

These included more than eight million who had been killed in combat or did not return from captivity, Lushchey said.

He said former Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev's estimate of 20 million dead was based on "questionable estimates."

"For years, the true scope of the Soviet Union's losses was concealed or distorted," Lushchey said in comments apparently timed to coincide with celebrations marking tomorrow's 45th anniversary of the defeat of Nazi Germany.

Romania probes arms sales

BUCHAREST, May 8, (UPI): Romania's chief prosecutor said yesterday investigators have uncovered evidence substantiating reports that the former communist regime sold advanced Soviet military technology to the United States.

General prosecutor George Robu refused to elaborate on the evidence or how it came to light, but said his office was "well aware" of the plot.

"We are at the very beginning of the investigation," Robu told United Press International. "We are under no illusions. We have lots of problems gathering the evidence. But we'll leave no stone unturned."

A report published Sunday in the Washington Post said the US government paid communist officials \$40 million over two years for advanced Soviet military technology, including radar systems that aided US development of the Stealth Bomber.

The Post, quoting intelligence sources in Washington and abroad, said US officials worked directly with two brothers of Ceausescu.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Norway opens environment conference: Norway's former prime minister Gro Harlem Brundtland opened an international conference on Tuesday by urging governments to act firmly to protect the environment.

"The pace of deforestation, soil erosion and loss of species is accelerating. We already know enough to start to act and act more forcefully," said Brundtland, who chaired the UN World Commission on Environment and Development which produced the 1987 Brundtland report.

Environmentalists expressed disappointment with a draft ministerial declaration, which stops short of any legally binding commitments (Reuters)

Bass family donates \$20 million: The Bass family of Fort Worth, Texas, has donated \$20 million to Yale University to study the environment and says its largesse won't end there.

The gift will establish the Yale Institute of Biospheric Studies, which will take an interdisciplinary approach to studying the biosphere. That is the zone of the Earth, from crust to atmosphere, that contains living organisms.

The donation is the biggest Yale has received since Paul Mellon, a 1929 graduate, contributed more than \$12 million in 1966-67 to construct the Yale Centre for British Art and an art collection worth an estimated \$5 million. (AP)

Wayne kin's attacker convicted: Jurors have convicted a man of eight felony counts, including assault with a deadly weapon, in an attack on the daughter of the late John Wayne and her boyfriend.

Jerrill Hintersgardt, 38, who made a surprise confession in court last week, faces sentencing June 8. He was convicted Monday in Santa Ana, California.

The prosecution alleged that Hintersgardt and private investigator Oded Daniel Gal were hired by Aissa Wayne's former husband, Dr Thomas Gionis, to attack her and boyfriend Roger Luby in October 1988.

Gionis allegedly arranged the beatings at Luby's Newport beach home because of a custody dispute with Ms Wayne over their daughter, Anastasia, then 2 years old. (AP)

'Brief case' turns bomb squad red: Members of the city's bomb squad were somewhat red-faced when they sent a robot to check the contents of a suspicious-looking suitcase in the heart of Montreal's red-light district.

The case was full of ladies' lingerie. The whole operation was carried out at mid-morning Monday before hundreds of amused onlookers near the corner of Rue St Laurent and St Catherine's street. (AP)

Suspected Mafia boss shot dead: Gunmen shot dead a 67-year-old suspected Mafia boss and drug trafficker on Tuesday in a fruit and vegetable store in western Sicily.

Police said Natale L'ala who lost his left eye in an attempt on his life in December, was shot repeatedly by at least two men in the town of Campobello. (Reuters)

Looks like Nazi camp victim: The father of a 20-year-old Italian held by kidnappers for 27 months said his son looked like a Nazi labour camp victim after his release.

Carlo Celadon enjoyed his first day at home with his family on Monday after spending much of his captivity in a damp hole infested by rats and snakes in the bleak Aspromonte mountains of southern Calabria.

Candido Celadon said his first sight of his son reminded him of an uncle who appeared on his doorstep starved at the end of World War Two after several years in a German labour camp. (Reuters)

US concedes health problems: US Secretary of Health Louis W. Sullivan, in a frank statement to the World Health Organisation (WHO) annual assembly Tuesday, said poor and minority Americans have serious health problems.

Sullivan said that health continues to improve for the US population as a whole with longevity increasing and infant mortality declining.

"However, we realise that our efforts are far from complete," he said. "We are working to reduce the high cost of health care and to provide affordable access to care for all of our citizens."

Currently, in the United States, health care costs our citizens well over \$600 billion a year. But 11 million Americans do not have proper health care coverage. (UPI)

Smoke alarms mandatory: The mandatory use of smoke alarms could save hundreds of lives in the UK and prevent thousands of injuries caused by fires in the home, a new report claimed Tuesday.

The report, by the UK's National Housing and Town Planning Council urged the government to follow the example of the United States, where legislation during the 1980s led to the widespread installation of smoke alarms.

As a result, the number of deaths from house fires in America was almost halved, making smoke alarms "the fire safety success story of the decade," the council said. (Kuna)

WHO chief warns

10 m carry Aids

GENEVA, May 8, (Reuters): The head of the World Health Organisation said today five to 10 million people were infected with the Aids virus, but many more would die from preventable diseases such as malaria.

WHO Director-General Hiroshi Nakajima, a 61-year-old Japanese who has headed the world body for the past two years, painted a gloomy picture of what was in store for the world on virtually all health fronts.

"Unless current trends are arrested, some 200 million people may die prematurely in the 1990s from preventable causes alone," he told delegates from 167 nations attending an annual meeting of the UN agency.

Nakajima said that unless there was a marked change in smoking patterns 500 million people living today would die this decade of diseases related to smoking.

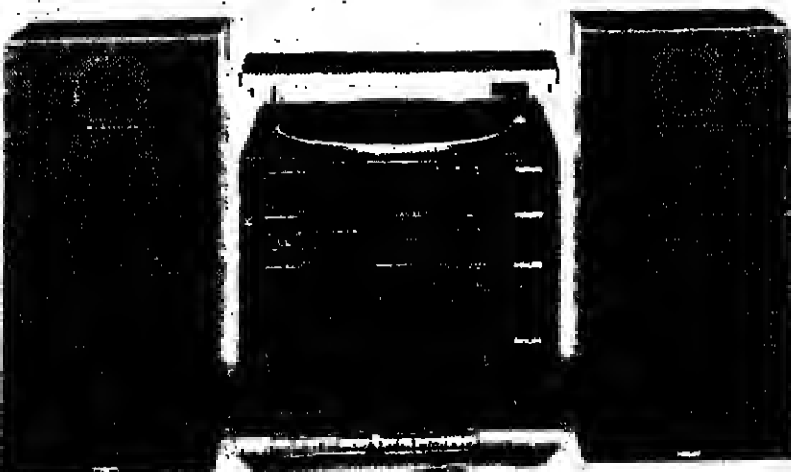
Diarrhoeal diseases could take the lives of 40 million children in the next decade while acute respiratory ailments would account for a similar number of child deaths.

Some 30 million people, mostly in developing countries, would die of tuberculosis in the next decade. Malaria, which was creeping back into areas where it had been eliminated, would kill between 10 and 20 million people.

World-wide, the biggest killer was cardiovascular disease with 12 million deaths annually. Cancer caused 4.8 million.

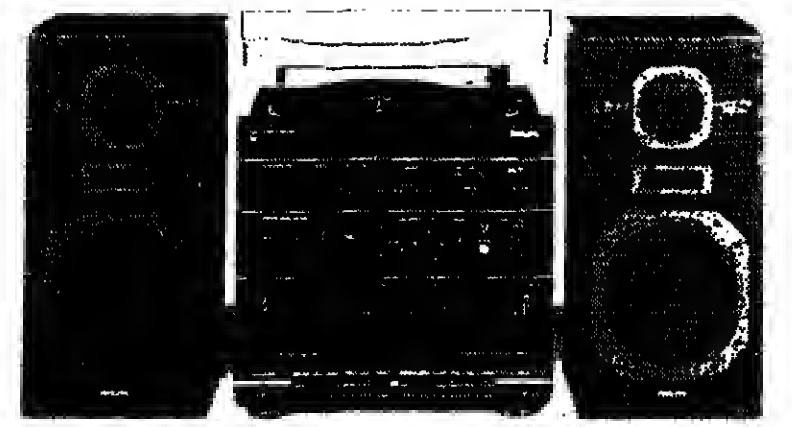
On Aids, Nakajima said: "Half of these (Aids virus carriers) will develop Aids within 10 years and most will die."

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TAKE A CLOSER LOOK.

PHILIPS

World News Roundup

America

Overseas press awards: A reporter and two photographers for the Associated Press have been cited by the Overseas Press Club for outstanding coverage of news in Romania, China and Iran.

The club, at its annual banquet Monday night, also observed a minute's silence and announced it was sending cables of protest to the 18 nations where 76 journalists are imprisoned.

Among the awards:

- HAL Boyle award for newspaper or news service reporting: Rosenblum, Kristof and Wudunn.
- Bob Considine award for newspaper or news service interpretation: Jackson Dicht of the Washington Post, articles on Eastern Europe, with a citation to Claudia Rosset of the Wall Street Journal, on China.
- Robert Capa gold medal for photo reporting or interpretation requiring exceptional courage or enterprise: Turnley, citations to Widener and to Christopher Morris of Black Star for Time magazine, for photos from Panama.
- Olivier Rebbot award for photo reporting: Peter Turnley, Newsweek, for the fall of Romanian President Nicolai Ceausescu.
- Cornelius Ryan award for best book: Thomas L. Friedman for "From Beirut to Jerusalem."

US probes Nazi-hunters: The US justice department has begun a probe of alleged misconduct by the department's chief Nazi-hunters, the Washington Post reported on Tuesday.

The newspaper said two members of the House of Representatives had been told of the investigation, "a sign that the controversy over US handling of accused war criminals may continue long after all the principal suspects are dead."

It said the department's office of professional responsibility wrote to William Dannemeyer and David Dreier, Republican Congressmen from the State of California, (Reuter)

Facts show Reagan lied: A prosecutor's remark at John Poindester's trial that then-President Ronald Reagan lied about trading arms for US hostages was fully supported by the facts, Iran-Contra prosecutors said Monday.

Dan K. Webb's remark in closing arguments was defended in court papers filed by prosecutors in response to defence motions to set aside the former national security adviser's five felony convictions. (AP)

Money for refugee programme: The number of refugees has increased dramatically over the last five years, but a state department official said Monday that many may be able to go home in the 1990s.

However, Princeton Lyman, director of refugee programmes, said it will take a lot of money to resettle displaced people around the globe.

Lyman told a Senate committee that the department wants \$475 million in fiscal 1991 to help refugees.

Refugee problem getting worse: The world refugee problem is getting worse, especially in Africa and Afghanistan, the US State Department's coordinator for refugee affairs said at a Senate hearing on Monday.

"The world refugee situation has worsened," Jewel Lafontant told a Senate appropriations subcommittee. "In the last decade, the refugee population has grown from 7.3 million to 15 million."

"I recently returned from a four-week visit to refugee camps and settlements in Malawi, South Africa, Swaziland, Mozambique, Zimbabwe and Kenya. I found scared, hungry, sick people, sometimes naked, trying to find a place to put their heads," she said. (Reuter)

Call to fire 'racist' columnist:

Tough-talking New York columnist Jimmy Breslin is under fire from fellow journalists for making racist and sexist remarks in the new column.

The Asian-American Journalists Association, upset over Breslin's denigration of a Korean-American reporter last week, has asked New York Newsday to fire the veteran journalist.

"We don't need someone like Breslin, who claims to speak for the man on the street, throwing sexual and racial insults around," Helen Zia, head of the 750-strong group, said on Monday. "We're asking for him to be fired. He's compromised and abused his responsibility." (Reuter)

On top of Mt. Everest: The scaling of Mount Everest by six climbers from the United States, China and the Soviet Union is estimated to what can be accomplished through international co-operation and friendship, expedition leaders said Tuesday.

"I think the best word is ecstatic. Everybody here has got huge grins on their faces and we're very very happy, this is really a great accomplishment," said Warren Thompson, deputy leader of the expedition. (AP)

"Dying" to see green lawns: Some residents of Santa Barbara, California are dealing with a ban on watering their lawns by painting or dying their withered grass green.

Santa Barbara, like Los Angeles, 60 miles (100 km) to the south, is in its fourth year of severe drought.

Los Angeles, which takes its water from the Sierra Nevada mountains and the Colorado river, has ordered a 10 per cent reduction in water usage but has ruled out a ban on watering lawns. (Reuter)

Discovery back home: Space Shuttle Discovery returned to Kennedy Space Centre on Monday, almost two weeks after it lifted off with the Hubble space telescope.

The shuttle came strapped atop a specially fitted Boeing 747, which had left Robins Air Force Base in Georgia 11-2 hours earlier. The plane was forced to stop at Robins overnight because of bad weather in Florida.

It was the second weather delay on the shuttle's piggyback ride home. The spacecraft and jet were held overnight Saturday at Sheppard Air Force Base in Texas after leaving Edwards Air Force Base in California earlier in the day. (AP)

Asia

Americans held in Vietnam: A Hong Kong-based American publisher and another US citizen have been arrested by Vietnamese authorities and are being held in Ho Chi Minh City, friends said Tuesday.

Official Vietnam media has made no mention of the arrests. Friends of publisher Michael Morrow, who said they have been in touch with Vietnamese authorities, said the two Americans were being held on unspecified charges.

Morrow's colleagues spoke on condition of anonymity. They said the writer, "big character" poster was taken up on a public bulletin board near the Beijing Normal University until police moved in and placed a seal over it.

The unsigned poster, dated May 7, praised Communist Party chief Jiang Zemin, the People's Liberation Army and the Chinese people, but it added: "Down with Li Peng, Yang Shao-guan and the government."

A witness told Reuters: "There was a big crowd of people watching as about 10 policemen came by and covered up the poster with a red seal." (Reuter)

Anti-Li posters: Chinese police on Tuesday hurriedly covered up a poster on a Beijing street corner attacking headline Premier Li Peng and President Yang Shangkun in a brief show of political discontent, witnesses said.

The poster, the widely written "big character" poster was taken up on a public bulletin board near the Beijing Normal University until police moved in and placed a seal over it.

The unsigned poster, dated May 7, praised Communist Party chief Jiang Zemin, the People's Liberation Army and the Chinese people, but it added: "Down with Li Peng, Yang Shao-guan and the government."

A witness told Reuters: "There was a big crowd of people watching as about 10 policemen came by and covered up the poster with a red seal." (Reuter)

Tibet travel rules tightened: Chinese authorities in Tibet announced strict new controls Monday on foreign travel to the region, with each traveller required to submit an application in advance to local authorities.

The new rules apply even to ordinary tourists, making it unlikely that tourism will revive to the levels before March 1988, when martial law was imposed to end pro-independence rioting. Martial law was lifted only last week.

The official Xinhua news agency quoted in Tang Zhongqi, deputy secretary-general of the regional government, as saying the controls were imposed because Tibet had limited capacity to accommodate foreign travellers.

Authorities clearly were concerned about contact between foreigners and Tibetans who for three years have demonstrated for independence. (AP)

Foetus survives abortion: A woman pregnant with twins gave birth to a healthy girl after doctors aborted the other foetus she was carrying, the Medical Journal of Australia reported this week.

An article in the journal's May issue said doctors in Adelaide aborted the foetus, a male, after they found it had thalassaemia — a rare genetic disorder that usually leaves children handicapped and kills before maturity.

In an editorial, the journal warned that selective termination was a theory issue that had "a sinister ring to it, with perhaps even connotations of eugenics (manipulating offspring to create superior humans)." (Reuter)

Bump on head helps sumo: A self-inflicted blow to the head took Shubei Nagao into the ranks of Japan's mighty sumo wrestlers on Tuesday, two months after he was turned down for being too short.

The former university wrestler stood only 170 cm (just under five feet, 11 inches) at the Japan Sumo Association's last pre-tournament physical in March, three cm (one and a quarter inches) below the minimum height. (Reuter)

Latin America

Guatemala suspend DC-6 flights: Guatemala temporarily suspended DC-6 flights on Monday after a plane crashed Saturday that killed 23 people and seriously injured eight, authorities said.

Local newspapers reported five people were still missing although rescue teams evacuated the accident scene on Sunday. Authorities had originally said 18 people, including 15 on the ground, were killed when the cargo plane crashed into a crowded residential area.

The DC-6 plane, carrying clothing and vegetables in addition to the crew, shattered and eventually nosedived into a two-storey home. (Reuter)

Quake shakes Panama: A strong earthquake shook the Pacific Coast of Panama on Monday night, the university of Panama's seismic institute said.

No damage or injuries were reported in the quake that occurred at 7:02 pm (8:02 pm EDT). The seismic institute registered the quake at 6.1 on the Richter Scale.

It happened between the Coco and Nazari plates, toward Costa Rica, in the south of Panama, said Jaime Toral of the seismic institute. (AP)

Aylwin admits problems: The defence minister acknowledged Monday that the new Chilean government is having problems with the military, which is upset over plans to investigate human rights abuses.

"The road of reconciliation between civilians and military that we are seeking is having difficulties," Defence Minister Patricio Rojas told reporters. "We are overcoming those problems without abandoning our main objective." (AP)

Llora, Fujimori too poor: Novelist Mario Vargas Llosa and agronomist Alberto Fujimori took their campaigns for Peru's presidency to Lima shantytowns as opinion polls on Monday showed Fujimori losing his lead a month before the voting.

Fujimori, in blue jeans and sneakers, spent the weekend barnstorming Lima's poorest shantytowns where millions of people live in mud-brick shacks amid open sewers and piles of garbage.

"The humble people, the people who work for a living like you all, will be the ones who decide this election," Fujimori, who defines himself as a pro-business centrist, told cheering supporters in the Bayovar Shantytown on Sunday night. (Reuter)

Free-market ideas. But critics accuse them of adhering to communist ideals and seeking to reimpose totalitarian rule.

News that the talks had broken down were greeted with news indignation on university square. Protest speeches, which normally begin late in the day, started shortly after delegation members reported that the meeting had been abortive.

Hezbollah quashes all hopes

Plenty of diversions

Hostages play games

BEIRUT, May 8. (Reuter): A top pro-Iranian leader quashed hopes today of earlier freedom for 15 Western hostages in Lebanon, blaming United States intransigence.

Hezbollah official Hussein Mousawi said in an interview the captives could be held beyond this year because of Washington's refusal to negotiate with hostage-takers.

"This issue has been turned into a very complicated case because of the negative American stands... this year may not witness a solution for the hostages held in Lebanon," he said.

Asked whether Hezbollah, which is widely believed to control the hostage-takers, would agree to a swap of Israeli servicemen it holds in return for Arab prisoners, Mousawi said that "was impossible."

Freedom for hundreds of Arabs from Israeli jails has been a key demand by Muslim kidnappers to free their Western captives, who include six Americans and three Britons.

Mousawi said "positive indications" of a breakthrough in the hostage crisis had followed the release last month of Americans Robert Pollard and Frank Herbert Reed "have diminished."

"The hostage issue will face stagnation for a certain period," said Mousawi, who was speaking in a telephone interview with the Communist Party radio, Voice of the People, from the eastern Lebanese town of Baalbeck.

The influential Hezbollah leader said a breakthrough in the hostage saga could be reached if

WASHINGTON, May 8. (AP): Terry Anderson, the longest held of the 16 Western hostages, helped fellow prisoners make scrabble and monopoly games to amuse themselves, according to a newly freed captive.

His guards are giving him and other hostages plenty of diversions, according to an account given by former hostage Frank Reed to Anderson's sister, Peggy Say.

"They have a lot of things, which was encouraging to me. At least they did at the time Frank was there," Say said. These included boxes of books, writing materials and dominoes.

Although Anderson, 42, is in good physical condition from plenty of exercise, he is tired and needs dental care, Say said. She said the hostages are blindfolded and chained in line with their preference.

"Frank preferred a chain on his wrist," she said. "Terry preferred a chain on his ankle so that his arms are free to write and play cards."

The closest she and Reed were able to calculate the last saw Anderson was somewhere between a year and 18 months ago. Reed spent 20 months with Anderson and Thomas Sutherland in Lebanon. For a period of time, the three American hostages were together with two others, John McCarthy and Brian Keenan.

Washington exerted pressure on Israel to free Lebanese Shi'ites and Palestinian prisoners.

"This matter will have positive effects in achieving a breakthrough in the hostage problem," Mousawi said.

But Israel insisted again that any deal to release Western hostages held by Lebanese militants should include freedom for six

Reed, the director of the private Lebanon International School, was freed April 30 after being held for 44 months. He is undergoing medical checkups at Andrews Air Force base in suburban Maryland and met with Say Monday night.

Anderson is the chief Middle East correspondent for the Associated Press and is in his sixth year of captivity. Sutherland was a dean at the American University of Beirut. McCarthy is a British television journalist. Keenan, who is Irish, taught English at American University.

"He is still a vindictive hearts player," Say said of her brother. Reed told her Anderson also reads voraciously, a book a day.

Reed said Anderson could pick up some things in Arabic from the radio and have at least some idea of what he thought was going on in the world. But his guards have made a concerted effort to keep him from news of the deaths of his father and brother, both from cancer, within four months of each other in 1986. Say said she believes that he still does not know.

"That's very difficult," she said. "Part of you wants him to have known and death with it and part of you believe it might be too much for him if he found out in captivity."

Washington exerted pressure on Israel to free Lebanese Shi'ites and Palestinian prisoners.

"This matter will have positive effects in achieving a breakthrough in the hostage problem," Mousawi said.

But Israel insisted again that any deal to release Western hostages held by Lebanese militants should include freedom for six

malicious treatment of Muslims in England including the imprisonment without trial of the Iranian student, the Iranian news agency Irna said yesterday.

Most Britons believe the UK government should be prepared to negotiate with kidnappers for the release of the British hostages, according to an opinion poll published today.

Iran has hinted that Britain would get no help in freeing British hostages in Lebanon while an Iranian student was in a British jail without trial.

"The British press as well as British politicians and (the Church of England) would do well to demand some explanation from the government for its

CDU party leading in Croatian elections

ZAGREB, May 8. (AP): A centre-right party that advocates Croatia's independence from the rest of Yugoslavia took a commanding lead yesterday in early returns from the final round of the republic's first free elections in 50 years.

With partial votes from 95 constituencies counted, candidates for the Croatian Democratic Union were leading in 48 constituencies ahead of communists, who led in 34.

A centrist coalition of independents and other smaller parties led in the remaining 13.

The apparent CDU victory seems likely to exacerbate political and ethnic tensions with other regions in Yugoslavia, particularly traditional rival Serbia, which is still under orthodox one-party communist rule.

In the first round of voting April 22-23, the CDU won 104 of 131 seats decided for the 356-seat tri-cameral regional parliament.

About 1.5 million Croatians voted on Sunday and Monday in 111 constituencies throughout the republic for the remaining 225 seats. Final results were not expected until tomorrow.

The Croatian Communist Party — renamed the Party for Democratic Reform — gathered only 13 seats in the first round, while the centrist Coalition for National Accord, considered a pre-election favourite, won 3.

"Croatians voted for us because we have offered them democracy to replace years of one-party monopoly," said Franjo Tudjman, leader of the Democratic Union.

"Now we have to start fulfilling everything we promised to our voters," he said, celebrating with champagne at the party's headquarters in Zagreb.

Before the elections, Tudjman said he was confident his party would win a majority and would later elect him Croatia's new president.

Tudjman, 66, once Yugoslavia's youngest army general, spent almost five years in jail for activities alleged to be nationalist and hostile to the state.

Yugoslavia's founding father, Josip Broz Tito, was a Croat, but purged nationalists in Croatia to retain his control of the country. Anti-Tito sentiments are growing around the nation 10 years after his death.

Voters in a Zagreb district chose a Democratic Union candidate over Tito's son, Alexander "Miso" Broz, who was running for the old-guard communists.

By contrast, the reform communists' leader, Ivica Racan, who has guided Croatia to democracy in the past six months, won his Zagreb district.



Warm reception

Chinese President Yang Shangkun (left) on Tuesday hailed the "eye-catching achievements" of the President of the United Arab Emirates in promoting peace and pledged China's support for Arab diplomacy.

During a welcoming banquet for Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahayan (right) Yang promised continued support for the Arab people's "just struggle... to restore their national rights and seek a just and complete settlement to the Middle East problem." (See Page 10) (See Page 11)

China missile ready for sale

US fears Israel target

WASHINGTON, May 8. (Reuter):

A new medium-range ballistic missile being developed by China apparently primarily for export to the Middle East could be ready for deployment in as little as two years, US officials and analysts said.

An official at the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency said last week China had tested the M-9 missile in the past year. This was confirmed by a State Department official.

The M-9 is a ground-launched surface-to-surface missile with a range of 375 miles (600 km). China has exhibited pictures of the new weapon with special features at arms fairs in the past two years but was not previously thought to have reached a test stage in its development.

US officials are worried that sale of such a weapon to the Middle East would upset the arms balance there and provide Arab states with a potent new weapon with which they could target Israel's strategic military airfields, most of which are situated in the Negev desert.

"From testing to deployment would normally take three years. So if they tested it last year, serious unforeseen problems they should be

ready for deployment by 1992," said Aaron Karp, an expert on ballistic missiles at Harvard University.

Officials said there was likely to be healthy demand for such a missile from Arab countries and China has already held exploratory talks with Iraq, Syria and Libya. Syria has been trying for years to get an accurate ballistic missile but the Soviet Union has refused to sell them one.

"It's been tested in China. It's certainly intended for export, there's no doubt about that," said one administration official.

In 1988, China sold a longer-range ballistic missile, the CSS-2 east wind with a range of 1,800 miles (2,880 km) capable of carrying chemical or nuclear warheads to Saudi Arabia.

Karp said the Chinese were building the missile so that it could be fired from Soviet missile launchers. The Soviet is a relatively old and inaccurate Soviet missile which many Arab states possess.

The United States has repeatedly warned China not to sell weapons to the Middle East and last year gained an assurance that China would not sell medium-range missiles to the region.

US bases in Greece

ATHENS, May 8. (Reuter): Libyan leader Muammar Khaddafi was planning to launch a missile attack against an American base on the island of Crete after a US air raid on Libya in 1986, a statement by the Libyan embassy in Athens said today.

The statement quoted Khaddafi's address via satellite from Tripoli to private conference on peace in the Mediterranean sponsored by a Greek organisation in Crete on Saturday.

"An American military base on the island of Crete was subject to missile bombing by Libya in 1986 when America thought of using it for aggression against our country," Khaddafi said.

He said he had warned the socialist government then ruling Greece of his intentions and asked authorities to evacuate the island "as it was likely to be turned into a battlefield between Libya and the United States of America."

The embassy statement included no explanation by Khaddafi of why the attack was not carried out.

Khaddafi threatened to retaliate against any island in the Mediterranean Sea if it was to be used by the United States for another attack against Libya.

"America would sacrifice the security of any Mediterranean island, of any country in Europe for the sake of its own security," he said.



Quayle meets Maggie

Vice President Dan Quayle shown above wearing a pilot's jacket on his first European tour as vice president. Tuesday discussed with Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher German unification, the future role of NATO and the democratic revolution of Eastern Europe.

Their meeting of just under an hour at 10 Downing Street on the 45th anniversary of Victory in Europe Day was largely ceremonial, however.

Quayle gave Thatcher a silver dollar commemorating the 10th anniversary of the birth of president Dwight Eisenhower Oct 15, 1930. He was accompanied by his wife, Marilyn shown above left to Quayle and representatives of the Eisenhower Foundation.

The vice president arrived in Britain from Rome on Monday on the second leg of a three-nation European tour to plan celebrations for the centennial. (UPI)

For Italian reds

ROME, May 8. (AP): The Italian Communist Party failed to slow its decline, suffering another setback at the polls in voting in 15 of Italy's 20 regions, partial results showed yesterday.

The long-dominant Christian Democrats showed small losses in the voting on Sunday and Monday while the Socialists, Italy's No. 3 party, registered gains, according to the projections aired on state-run television evening newscasts more than eight hours after polls closed.

Local parties demanding greater regional autonomy in Lombardy and Veneto in the north showed surprising success.

By 10 pm (2000 GMT), two thirds of the precinct results were tabulated. Complete official results were not expected before today, but the partial results were in line with the projections by the respected Doxa polling organisation.



North Pole bound

Two Norwegians become the first people to walk unaided to the North Pole on May 8 Erling Kagge (left) and George Gjosund began their 800 km walk on March 8 from Carlsbad having lost a third member on the way. (Reuter wirephoto)

Africa

Hostages freed: Somalia on Tuesday named the two Europeans aboard a light aircraft hijacked on Sunday to Ethiopia as Lucien Roggemann and Erno Perini, an Italian who was piloting the plane. Police seized the plane and freed the hostages. On Monday, talks were underway for the plane and those on board to be returned.

Their single-engine Cessna was hijacked to the Ethiopian border town of Dolo by two Somalis while on a flight from Bardera in southern Somalia to the capital Mogadishu.

The Somali Transport Ministry said both Europeans were employees of the Italian construction company Muti. Also on board was a Somali national working for the same firm, it said. (Reuter)

Saharan highway project revived: Four countries in Northwest Africa have revived plans to complete a trans-Saharan highway running from Algiers in Algeria to Lagos in Nigeria.

Representatives of Algeria, Tunisia, Niger and Mali met in Tunis at the weekend and agreed to ask the Islamic Development Bank to seek funds for the uncompleted sections of the 5,500-km (3,400-mile) highway.

Nigeria, traditionally a member of the trans-Saharan highway liaison committee, did not take part.

The project, originally launched in 1962, lost momentum in the 1980s and 1,423 km (884 miles) of the route has never been completed.

Dialogue between Iliescu and protesters breaks down

BUCHAREST, May 8. (AP): Anti-Communist protesters stormed out of a meeting with interim President Ion Iliescu today, dashing government hopes of ending a marathon demonstration seeking Iliescu's resignation.

The abortive meeting ended minutes after it began, when the government delegation refused to permit videotaping of the meeting and the protesters' delegation turned down a counteroffer of a stenographer to take minutes.

At downtown university square, site of the anti-Iliescu protest, about 1,000 people had gathered by midday, loudly demanding Iliescu's resignation and calling for a National Salvation Front, which dominates the interim government, a party of "neo-communists."

The demonstrators, who have kept up a round-the-clock protest for 17 days, said they would continue until May 20, when the country goes to the polls for the first free national elec-

tions in more than 25 years.

Iliescu, a former Communist Party official, became a critic of former dictator Nicolae Ceausescu in the early 1970s and was relegated to lesser posts because of his outspoken stance.

After Ceausescu was toppled in December and the National Salvation Front rose to prominence, Iliescu and other former communist officials within the front publicly broke with their Marxist past and embraced democratic,

free-market ideas. But critics accuse them of adhering to communist ideals and seeking to reimpose totalitarian rule.

News that the talks had broken down were greeted with news indignation on university square. Protest speeches, which normally begin late in the day, started shortly after delegation members reported that the meeting had been abortive.

هكذا من الأصل

Hostages: Israel under pressure

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, May 8, (AP): Moshe Arad, Israel's ambassador to Washington, today defended his country's position on a hostage deal, saying pressure from the families of captured Israeli soldiers prevented any one-sided concessions.

Arad's remarks on Israel radio were part of a series of statements reacting to US pressure on Israel to free Shiite Muslim prisoners to encourage further releases of Western hostages held in Lebanon.

The office of Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir issued a statement on the hostages, saying Israeli captives had to be part of any deal.

"Israel again declares its readiness to release Lebanese detainees it holds in exchange for the return of all its prisoners and those missing in action," said the statement by Shamir spokesman Avi Pazner.

Three Israeli soldiers were captured in Lebanon in 1986, and are believed held by the pro-Iranian Hezbollah militia, which is believed to be connected to groups holding 16 Western hostages.

Arad outlined Israel's position in a meeting in Washington today with Peggy Say, the sister of US hostage Terry Anderson. Anderson, chief Middle East correspondent of the Associated Press, was kidnapped in March 1985, making him the longest-held of the Western hostages.

Mrs Say urged him to pressure Israel's government to free Shites held by Israel to win the freedom of her brother.

"I explained to her... that the families of the missing soldiers are also in a difficult situation because they haven't heard from their sons for many years," Arad said in an interview aired today.

"I also explained to her as I have explained to other Americans, that Israel will do its part to help with the release of all hostages as part of a package deal that includes the release of the Israeli captives," Arad said.

President from the families was also cited by General Yehonatan Givli, commander of the Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army militia that holds about 300 Shites at its Al Khiam prison in South Lebanon.

Lahad said on Middle East television yesterday that he would not trade his detainees for Western hostages unless efforts were made to include eight missing SLA fighters and the three Israelis.

Lahad said that when rumours spread last month that he would free 30 to 40 detainees in exchange for the release of two US hostages, he was pressured by prisoner families to reconsider.

"The international publicity... created concern among the families of the SLA fighters and the Israeli prisoners who accused us of releasing prisoners in return for foreign hostages while doing nothing for our hostages," Lahad said.

Lahad said he would resume regular prisoner releases once the current process resumed.

The Lahad interview and Pazner's statement were apparently responses to appeals for goodwill gestures to encourage Lebanese groups to free their Western captives.

On Sunday, US Sen. Daniel Moynihan, a New York Democrat, considered a strong supporter of Israel, said Israel cannot hold hostages against international law, against international claims, humanitarian demands.

Ultimatum to Algeria

BEIRUT, May 8, (Reuters): A Lebanese-backed Palestinian group said yesterday it had given Algeria three days to free one of its fighters and lift restrictions on its activities.

A statement issued by the Palestinian Fatah Revolutionary Council (FRC), led by Abu Nidal, said the group met Algerian envoy Mohamed Yehia in Beirut on Sunday and gave him government a three-day deadline to respond to its demands.

The group asked Algeria to free the FRC member Hisham Mohammed within the next three days and lift restrictions on the group's activities in that country.

The statement gave no details as to why Mohammed Saqr was held, by whom or what restrictions the Algerian authorities had imposed on the organisation. Nor did it say what action would be taken if its demands were ignored.

'Possible and natural' Scholar says on Islam, democracy

ALGIERS, May 8, (Reuters): Leading Islamic scholars and intellectuals attending a conference on the future of Islam yesterday said multi-party democracy was not only compatible with the Muslim faith but necessary in the modern world.

"It is neither moral nor possible to demand freedom for ourselves when we are persecuted and refuse it to others when we are in a position of strength," Tunisian fundamentalist leader Rachid Ghannouchi told a panel discussion.

Ghannouchi, who lives in exile, is fighting for political freedom in Tunisia where his Nahdha (Renaissance) Movement is banned.

Mohamed Salim Elawa, an Egyptian jurist, said the equivalent of political parties existed in the early days of Islam. "Multi-party democracy must be recognised because reality is diverse, and the diversity of opinion is recognised."

But Sudanese fundamentalist leader Hassan Turabi, whose National Islamic Front is thought to have close ties to the ruling military junta, sounded a

somewhat discordant note. While agreeing that Islamic multi-party democracy was 'possible and natural' he warned that 'liberalism' could threaten the foundations of Islam.

He attacked Western-style democracy as antagonistic to Islam, citing the case of a Muslim schoolgirl in France initially barred from wearing a veil in class.

"The attitude toward multi-party democracy varies according to the stages of creation expansion and growth of the Islamic movement," he said, suggesting it may not always be appropriate.

The four-day conference, organised by the London-based Centre for Studies on the Future of Islam, is due to end with a series of recommendations.

Algerian President Chadli Benjedid received several of the participants yesterday and expressed support for their work, according to Algerian radio.

Yemens speed up unity plan

Six months ahead of schedule

SANAA, May 8, (Reuters): North and South Yemen have decided to speed up their planned merger to forestall any attempts to undermine the creation of the Arabian peninsula's most populous country, diplomats and officials in the North say.

They said a formal announcement of the new Yemen republic would be made about six months ahead of schedule, after the two parliaments meet to ratify its draft constitution during the last week of this month.

Initial plans called for the birth of the new state to be declared on November 30 after a popular vote on the constitution at the end of a transition period following ratification.

"The unity process is being speeded up to avoid the possibility of outside interference, mainly through manipulation of religious forces inside the country," said one member of Parliament who wished to remain anonymous.

North Yemeni Information Minister Hassan Al Lauzi would not confirm a widely quoted date of May 26 but told Reuters: "I do not discount declaring the Yemeni republic within two or three weeks."

Yemeni officials from both states have warned of threats to the merger that would end more than 300 years of division between the countries, which have fought fierce border wars in their more recent past.

South Yemen's Minister of State for Union Affairs, Rashid Mohammed Thabit, said in an interview earlier this year that "hostile internal forces" with outside links were threatening the merger.

North Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh told a rally last month that those who were "trying to plant thorns on the road to Yemeni unity under the pretext of Islam or through strange and radical ideas," would fail.

No fingers have been pointed publicly. Privately, officials say they believe neighbouring Saudi Arabia viewed the creation of a unified Yemeni state along its southern border with some apprehension.

Saudi Arabia's King Fahd publicly supported the union moves after a visit to Riyadh by Saleh in February.

But diplomats and officials in Sanaa say the kingdom is uncomfortable with the idea of a united Yemen enjoying a more liberal political system and a population of some 13 million.

Saudi Arabia also has about 13 million residents but Yemenis are a significant proportion of the total.

The draft constitution guarantees a multi-party system. Socialist South Yemen is now ruled by a single party and the north has no political parties.

"I suspect the main reason for putting the unity announcement where it is expected now is to forestall any difficulties which might arise," one senior diplomat said.

"If there is any attempt by any of Yemen's neighbours to cause difficulties then the quicker they get into a strong position the less likely it is to happen."

Saudi Arabia has strong links with fiercely independent tribes living on the disputed borders with the two Yemens.

Reports last month of clashes with tribesmen in the northern border town of Saadah have been discounted by officials and foreign diplomats in Sanaa but underline the tension preceding the unity announcement.

Arabs watch bitterly as Israel builds homes for Soviet Jews

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, May 8, (Reuters): Palestinians who are routinely refused permission to build new houses in occupied Jerusalem are watching bitterly while workers erect thousands of homes for newly arrived Soviet Jews.

"When you talk about law, it is different for Jews than for Palestinians," said Mohammed Masri, chairman of the community association in the neighbourhood of Beit Hanina.

The circle of Jewish housing around the Arab areas of occupied east Jerusalem is being drawn tighter. Israel allotted funds this month to build 7,500 units in occupied Jerusalem for Soviet immigrants, most on land near Beit Hanina.

Amir Cheshin, city adviser on Arab affairs, says some 30,000 housing units have been built for Jews since Israeli troops captured occupied Arab east Jerusalem from Jordan in the 1967 Middle East war.

The city says it does not have figures for Arab housing but a glance at a landscape crowded with fresh Israeli construction supports the Palestinian view that few new houses belong to Arabs.



Crying for reforms

An Israeli protesting for electoral reform is pushed back to the sidewalk on Monday by Israeli Knesset police as he attempts to get closer to parliamentarians as they arrive for the opening session of the Knesset (parliament). Thousands of Israelis converged on the Knesset demanding an end to political brokering by leaders who fall out over making peace with Palestinians. (Reuters wirephoto)

Shift in Israeli Mideast policy

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, May 8, (AP): Foreign Minister Moshe Arens said yesterday that Israel cannot possibly reach a settlement with the Palestinians without achieving peace with its Arab enemies.

The statement was the latest expression of a shift in Israel's Middle East peace policy away from debate over a dialogue, promoted by the United States, between Palestinian and Israel.

Now, Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and members of his caretaker government are emphasising the need for broader-based negotiations with the Arab world.

"It is hard to reach peace with the Arab world without dealing with the Palestinian issue. It is impossible to reach a settlement with the Palestinians outside of the context of peace with the Arab countries," Arens said, speaking in the Knesset, or parliament.

Only Egypt has signed a peace treaty with Israel. He noted that Israel's peace plan, approved by the government in May 1989, called for an end to the state of war with Arab states and foreign aid to help resettle Palestinians living in refugee camps.

The plan also offered Palestinian elections in the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip and limited autonomy in these areas, the scene of the nearly 29-month Palestinian uprising.

At least 684 Palestinians have died in the revolt, and 43 Israelis have been slain.

Some 212 Palestinians have been killed by their brethren on suspicion of being pro-Israeli collaborators in the uprising.

The latest deaths came yesterday in the Gaza Strip, where Israeli troops shot and killed Mohammed Musa, 17, during a stone-throwing clash in the town of Rafah, Arab hospital officials said.

In the Maghaz refugee camp, masked assailants stabbed to death Zaki Abdel Khader, 25, and wounded his brother Hamza. Arab reports suggested they were suspected informers.

The army said it was checking the reports of the deaths.

Jeers, spit at Israeli MP

Rally for reform

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, May 8, (Agencies): Thousands of Israelis demanding electoral reform yesterday booed legislators as they drove past the crowd to reach Parliament for the opening of the summer session.

Dozens of police officers held back the about 4,000 protesters as they jeered, spat and waved placards reading: "We are sick of you" and "No less than democracy." They hurled insults and called them trash.

The demonstration coincided with the opening of the Knesset (Parliament) and a ceremony marking the 45th anniversary of the defeat of Nazi Germany.

There was the latest protest by a growing Electoral Reform movement. The protests were sparked by the political horse-trading following the March 15 collapse of the ruling coalition of the left-leaning Labour Party and the right-wing Likud bloc.

After the two rival parties tried for the past six weeks to lure defectors from each other's camps with offers of political posts and money, they were growing signs yesterday that another Likud-Labour government was in the offing.

Israel television reported that both parties were considering a compromise by the National Religious Party that would avoid a clear yes-or-no answer to US Middle East peace proposals.

The last government was toppled by Labour after Likud refused to accept proposals by US Secretary of State James Baker that would lead to an Israeli-Palestinian dialogue in Cairo.

At the protest rally in front of Parliament, meanwhile, the crowd chanted "we are fed up" as legislators drove past.

"The general feeling is that there is nobody who is actually representing you," said Mike Marmar, a rabbinical student who immigrated from London four years ago.

"The feeling of complete separation from the people who live in that building is very hard-felt," Marmar said, pointing to the Parliament building across the street.

Another demonstrator, veteran Soviet Jewish immigration activist Vladimir Slepak, said he never expected he would one day protest against the Israeli government.

"In the Soviet Union we knew there was one party and we knew what they would do. But here nobody knows what will be tomorrow," said Slepak who arrived in Israel after waging a long fight against Soviet authorities for permission to emigrate.

Rally organisers accused politicians of abusing democracy and demanded that an independent commission appointed by President Chaim Herzog work out a new electoral system.

The campaign, led by dozens of Israeli mayors and army reserve officers, has collected more than half a million signatures.

Najib names Yaar premier

ISLAMABAD, May 8, (AP): Afghan President Najibullah named Herat Governor Fazle Haq Khalil Yaar to head his communist government yesterday, radio Kabul reported.

The appointment came as a rocket attack on the Afghan capital killed one person and wounded two, the state-run Radio said.

The radio broadcast, monitored in Islamabad, blamed the rocket attack on US-armed rebels. No one claimed responsibility for the attack.

Khalil Yaar's appointment as prime minister follows on the heels of Sunday's promotion of Sultan Ali Keshmand to the vice-presidency.

The former Herat governor was seriously wounded last April when rebels staged a bloody surprise attack on a supposed surrender ceremony of thousands of rebel fighters.

Hidden among more than 10,000 defectors at the ceremony in the northwestern province of Herat were a handful of mujahedeen, rebels, pretending to have embraced Najibullah's Soviet-style government.

But when Khalil Yaar stepped out of his helicopter to launch the ceremony, the rebel fighters opened fire. When the shooting stopped 30 minutes later, 110 people were dead and scores more injured.

Najibullah lost several top military officers, including Lt. Gen. Jalal Razaminda, a deputy security minister, in the Herat attack.

Muslim rebels claimed yesterday to have recaptured ground lost during a week of heavy fighting with Afghan government troops outside the eastern city of Jalalabad.

The state-run radio acknowledged the renewed attack but said the rebels had been repulsed and 180 of them killed.

"With this operation the enemy's morale has been completely broken," Radio Kabul claimed, although the report could not be independently verified.

The radio report also said government soldiers captured hundreds of anti-tank missiles, even more surface-to-surface missiles and thousands of small arms from the US-armed rebel fighters.

Meanwhile, Mideast, the news agency of the Afghan resistance, said rebels overran government security outposts about 12 miles (20 kilometers) east of Jalalabad.

The report claimed Afghan troops suffered heavy casualties in the weekend battle. The report did not say whether there were any rebel casualties, and it could not be independently confirmed.

The radio broadcast, however, said four government soldiers were killed and another seven wounded in the past five days.

Fighting around Jalalabad has erupted sporadically since the rebels launched a major offensive in March 1989 to take the eastern city.

The humanitarian aid organisation Medecins Sans Frontieres (Doctors without Frontiers) said today it is freezing its activities in Afghanistan after one of its workers was killed some 10 days ago in the north of the country, officials of the group said.

Families disagree

KHARTOUM, Sudan, May 8, (AP): Families of seven victims of a terror attack disagree on whether to send the Palestinians who killed them to the gallows or pardon them in exchange for blood money, the Sudan News Agency reported today.

Under Sudan's Islamic law, relatives of the five Britons and two Sudanese killed in the 1988 attack would have to agree on blood money in lieu of punishment to spare the five Palestinians.

Judge Ahmed Al Beshir Al Hadi yesterday postponed for the fourth time this year a hearing to determine their fate for bombing a hotel restaurant and shooting at a nearby Expatriates' Club on May 15, 1988. All seven of the dead were in the bombed restaurant.

The British victims were Quakers, a religion that strongly opposes capital punishment or violence of any kind. They included a married couple, both charity workers, and two toddlers.

The official news agency reported that Al Hadi said relatives of Christopher and Clare Roloff and their children Thomas, 3, and Louise, 1, agreed to a pardon. They relinquished their right to blood money, the judge said.

Hussein — Israeli boat incident

No point in denying

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, May 8, (AP): An Israeli navy boat came within 100 yards (metres) of the yacht of Jordan's King Hussein in the Gulf of Aqaba, and crew members took pictures of the monarch, Israeli television reported yesterday.

During the April 28 incident, the Israeli patrol boat also fired its two 20-mm guns as part of a weapons check. The king's craft was then at a distance of one kilometre (0.6 mile) from the Israeli vessel, it said.

A Jordanian Navy vessel and Hussein's yacht came closer to the Israeli boat, which then approached the king's yacht, staying at the distance of 100 metres (yards) from it as crew members photographed Hussein, the television said.

"There's no point in saying that this is not part of the (navy) operational procedures," said the TV's military correspondent Moshe Shlonsky.

The housing debate is inseparable from the wider Israeli-Palestinian struggle. Israelis consider occupied Jerusalem their united capital. Arabs consider the eastern half to be the capital of a future state of Palestine.

SSC exams to be held June 7-18

86 committees to supervise

THE assistant undersecretary of education ministry for information and student affairs Abdul Mohsen Al Saeed has said that final exams of Secondary School Certificate SSC for government school students will begin on Thursday June 7 1990 and end Monday June 18. A total of 21,246 students from science and

arts sections will appear for the exams. 29.86 per cent of whom are Kuwaiti nationals. He added that 44.21 per cent of students of arts section are Kuwaitis. Kuwaiti students of SSC science section at the Adult Education Centre are 440 and non-Kuwaitis 135.

Kuwaiti students who study at arts section in these centres are 881 against 201 non-Kuwaitis. Additionally 662 Kuwaitis studying privately will also appear for the exams compared to 458 non-Kuwaitis. Al Saeed pointed out that the ministry has set up 86 committees to supervise

these exams distributed at different educational areas. The students will perform exams in air-conditioned halls and will enjoy some facilities like medical care, and cold water. He added that exams of the Secondary School Certificate at the Religious Institute will commence on Wednesday June 6.

NEWS IN BRIEF

New contracts

THE undersecretary of the Civil Service Commission (CSC) Abdul Aziz Al Zabin has said that the new contracts will be used for new recruitment retroactively from May 1, 1990. Jobs covered by the new contracts include auxiliary positions and assistant technical posts as well as posts that require no experience.

He ruled out any intention to prepare similar new contracts for professional employees such as doctors, engineers and teachers. He underscored this statement by adding that the idea is not even possible in the future.

He told a local daily that the CSC is currently preparing a circular to be sent to all ministries and government departments outlining the measures to be taken in line with the decision on lump-sum contracts.

KU information

KUWAIT University will reportedly inaugurate the new Information Department sometime next September, and the committee in charge of preparing the study curriculum for this department has finished its academic studies and submitted them to the relevant authorities.

An official source, quoted by a local daily, said that the university will receive the students wishing to join the Information Department as of the first term of the next academic year 90/91 during August next year, and that 30 students will be admitted into this department.

The officials said that the university will commission the 'arts' faculty dean Dr Sulaiman Al Bader to take over the responsibility of running the new department, and that specialist professors will be recruited to teach at the new department.

Illegal aliens

SECURITYMEN at the Coast Guards Department have arrested six Iranian people working on some farms in Jahra, after investigations revealed that they had infiltrated into the country by sea.

Security investigations revealed that an Iranian resident of Kuwait arranged with some people in Iran to give them work on his farm in return for small salaries after entering Kuwait illegally.

The investigations led to the arrest of a number of such illegal infiltrators, some of whom had been in the country for quite a long time.

Media decisions

KUWAIT, May 8, (Kuna): Director General of the Arab Gulf Joint Programme Production Institute Abdul Wahab Al Sultan yesterday said the 20th meeting of the institute's board of directors adopted a number of decisions that would boost the Gulf joint media march.

Speaking to Kuna, Sultan said the meeting which wound up here yesterday, discussed a report on the institute's activities and achievements and approved final accounts of fiscal years 1989-90.



Lebanese prince

Interior Minister Sheikh Salem Al Saban received Monday the visiting Prince Talat Majeed Arsalan of Lebanon. Friendly talks were exchanged.

Computer viruses rampant

Pirated software causes problems

By Diana Abou Haider
Arab Times staff

THERE are no cures for computer viruses yet, but protection against them is possible through understanding the problem and applying correct measures, said Charles Preston, a computer security consultant visiting Kuwait.

Preston is the main speaker at a 3-day seminar on virus prevention and control that opened at the Sheraton Monday. The seminar is organised by the National Consulting Bureau and Sultan Systems, and attended by 41 computer specialists from Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Abu Dhabi and Oman.

Viruses are miniature computer programmes that could be written in any computer language. "They can freeze your keyboard, change definitions of your keyboard keys, format your floppy disks and scramble your data files," said Preston.

He added that virus-caused destruction could happen over a period of months and damage thousands of hours worth of data. "It could also slow your system down to a crawl, insert messages in printed output such as invoices and copy your files to another system if you have a telephone modem without you knowing where the copy went."

Types

According to the computer expert, there are three types of viruses: bombs, Trojan horses and worms. A bomb acts immediately after entering the computer system. Once activated, it executes instructions which range from changing file contents to displaying little "Pac-Man" figures or bouncing balls on the screen. A Trojan horse is a delayed action programme that activates itself only after a specified action occurs, such as the occurrence of a selected date or a specified sequence of key strokes. A worm does not usually destroy files. Instead, it slows down the computer's operation by repeatedly copying a file until the hard disk is too full to operate efficiently.

"Design of secure systems doesn't keep a virus from changing a programme," said Preston adding that it does not take a programming genius to write a virus. "There are hundreds of books that can tell you exactly how to write a programme."

He added that many are discovering that viruses could be a tool of industrial sabotage.

"The problem will certainly get worse before it gets better, especially as computers get more powerful and more connected. A PC could do today what a main frame computer could seven years ago. Thousands of computers are connected through networks around the world, and there are 30 to 40 million PCs that run on the same programme."

The speaker said that there are more than 50 identified viruses or virus strains that affect IBM PCs today. Among them are the Pakistani or Brain virus that causes excessive disk activity and Stoned that announces itself to the user by printing the message "Your computer is stoned." Another virus called Cascade causes the letters to fall to the bottom of the screen, while the Jerusalem or the Israeli virus will wipe out a whole programme.

Failures

One of the viruses that affect Macintosh computers is called Scores. This miniature programme causes intermittent failure to print on laser printers. Some portions of this virus that infected Nasa computers activate 2 to 7 days after its introduction.

Another virus written by a 14-year-old and called Dukakis prints the following message "Dukakis for President... Peace on earth and have a nice day." Stressing the role of awareness and education in combating viruses, Preston said that the common belief that viruses are only found in free or shareware programmes is wrong. "Numerous viruses have been shipped in sealed commercial software from reputable dealers."

John Lesniewski, chief executive officer at Sultan Systems and one of the seminar's staff said that viruses are rampant in Kuwait and other Gulf countries because there is a lot of pirated software.

"The most common viruses are Jerusalem, Stoned and Ping Pong. Stoned is the most difficult to get rid of," Lesniewski said adding that setting up a corporate policy to keep viruses from entering the computers of a ministry or a company is of utmost importance.

"Scanning programmes to detect viruses are available, but they need continuous updating," said the expert on cleansing infected computers.

Industry

Arabs cannot compete: Hamad

THE industrial sector in the Arab countries still cannot compete with foreign industries either due to high costs or due to protection measures adopted by the industrial countries. In the final analysis, Arab industries face many problems in marketing their products in foreign markets, according to a study prepared by Kuwait based Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development (AFESD).

The study which has been prepared by the chairman of the fund Abdullatif Al Hamad said that the Arab countries during the last two decades had laid down the necessary foundation for developing the infrastructure of projects and utilities such as electricity, gas, water, roads and communication projects. However, he commented that these countries had failed to address their economic structure.

It added that most of the Arab countries had realised considerable social development, in addition to high level of education and health services. Nevertheless, the study said, that despite these performances, the Arab countries still suffer unemployment.

Scholarships for Arabic studies to foreigners

KUWAIT UNIVERSITY admits 35 to 45 foreign students per annum from several countries including Asia, Africa, Europe, America and Soviet Union to study the Arabic language according to the director of the linguistic centre of the university Dr Iltam Al Bassam.

In an interview with a local daily, Bassam said that the centre established in 1975 extends scholarships to these foreign students to encourage them to acquire expertise in Arabic for academic objectives.

She added that the applicants should have been conferred a university degree from their countries and should prove their need to study Arabic.

Meanwhile, the official disclosed that the centre is planning to increase the number of the students who could benefit from these scholarships, in addition to increasing the Arabic language curriculum. She added that the linguistic laboratory will be devoted on a continual basis towards the study of the Arabic language. The centre has been provided with the necessary facilities including the Audio-visual equipment and computers. Bassam said.

Working team to set up industrialisation strategy

Protectionist policies

THE Assistant Undersecretary for Financial and Administrative Affairs and the Acting Assistant Undersecretary for Industrial Affairs at Kuwait's Ministry of Commerce and Industry Ali Al Saqr has said that the working team comprising representatives from the ministry of commerce and industry, the ministry of planning, the chamber of commerce and industry, Kuwait Industrial Bank and the Industrialists Federation will hold a meeting this week to set up the headlines for its scheme and to discuss the industrialisation strategy in Kuwait.

In an interview with a local daily, Saqr said that the meeting will discuss studies submitted by the ministry of commerce and industry. The Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Kuwait Industrial Bank related to the industrial development process and obstacles hindering progress. Meanwhile, the official was quoted as confirming that the Ministry had recently formed three working teams, one to follow up the extent of commitment of local and foreign companies in Kuwait to purchase local industries, the second to discuss the problems facing the current national industries, adding that this team will submit its final report within three months to be followed by an expanded meeting to be attended by representatives from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, the Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Kuwait Industrial Bank to discuss how to overcome the problems facing the current industries.

The third team has been formed to discuss the possibility of connecting the local industries protection with the commitment to the standard specs by these industries and the review of the protective policies in order to submit the necessary subsidy for the industries that included the criterions of added value for the national income and how to compute such a value.

Over 600 patients need organ donors

Transplant success rate 95pc

MORE than 600 people in Kuwait need an organ transplant, of whom 300 are patients with renal failure. The total of 800 people have announced their wish to donate their parts after death.

A local daily has interviewed a number of patients suffering from renal failure and who continually undergo dialysis, and also met with Dr Mohammed Al Mosawi, renal disease specialist at the Kuwait Transplants Society.

He said that the renal failure is treated either through artificial cleaning or kidney transplant, pointing out that the first method cleans the kidney from toxic materials through an automated artificial kidney machine.

Patients with renal failure need renal dialysis once every several days to reduce the percentage of toxicity in the blood to keep the patient alive, the official said.

He added that there is great

pressure of patients and that this led the ministry to give six months period to non-Kuwaitis wishing to undergo dialysis, provided that they fetched a kidney donor from their close relations.

He said that the best treatment for renal failure is to transplant a healthy kidney and that the operation is preceded by a series of tests to ensure that the new kidney will be accepted by the body of the patients.

Commitment

He said that donated kidneys must be given as an act of religious commitment to help another human being whose life is endangered. Additionally the donation must be made at the free will of the donor and not for gain.

The success percentage of transplants operations exceeds 95 per cent as new antibodies used in the process increased the success rates. Many patients with new kidneys lead a perfect life,

but need to be frequently examined by doctors during the first three months to ensure normalcy, Mosawi said.

Hussa Ahmad said that she had two kidney transplant operations, one in India and the other in Kuwait back in 86. Both operations had setbacks due to the severe case of anaemia that developed due to the use of pills, and appealed to donors to offer her a kidney to relieve her from the agony of artificial cleaning.

Bader Al Mulla a boy of 19 said that he used dialysis three times a week and this kept him from leading a free normal life. He appealed to donors to part with one of their kidneys to relieve him of the pain.

A mother of two said that she is living on her husband's donated kidney and leading a successful life since 1980, but abided by a strict diet and followed the doctor's instructions closely, and added her husband is healthy and well.

Abdalli and Wafra farms inspected

By Jamal Ameen

KUWAIT Municipality Acting Director General Sheikh Sabah Jaber Al Ali paid an inspection visit to the agricultural farms in Abdalli and Wafra and the municipality work centre in both areas to review the progress of services performed by the municipality and to get to know the problems facing farmers.

Sheikh Sabah began his tour by visiting the staff operating at the municipality working centre. The official was briefed on the problems facing work progress, and promised to provide quick solutions and provide them with an air-conditioned bus to transport workers to their work sites.

Allowances

He also ordered the allocation of KD1000 for the cost of maintenance of municipality equipment and construction of other facilities, as well as the endorsement of personal loans to some workers. He also promised to consider applications by others for allowances.

Sheikh Sabah then met with farmers and promised them to effect the necessary co-ordination with the related service ministries to solve their problems, which included shortage of water supply, difficulty of water distribution, sharp road turns which caused traffic accidents and shortage of maintenance services and others.

Other problems pointed out to Sheikh Sabah included the insufficiency of security patrols, lack of power supply installations to new farms, the need to put up traffic signs to reduce road accidents and absence of area planning.

Experiment

Meanwhile, Sheikh Fahd Mubarak Sabah Al Nasser Al Sabah said that the results of the experimental attempts to grow barley in Kuwait were successful and promising and called on the Public Authority for Agricultural Affairs and Fish Resources to provide farmers with the equipment needed to gather the harvest.

A member of the authority's board of directors and owner of a farm Mutlaq Zaid Al Masoud said that the authority had agreed to set up a special company to market local produce.

He pointed out that the establishment of such a company will enable farmers to get a net profit estimated by minimum 50 per cent and maximum 80 per cent which constitute a great encouragement to farmers and agricultural activities.

Municipality authorised to tear down billboards

THE director of sign boards department at Kuwait Municipality Adnan Al Ghareeb was quoted as saying that the municipality was authorised to confiscate exhibits that might be displayed in the showcase of shops and boutiques in case such exhibits violated the rules of public conduct and contradicted with the country's customs and traditions.

In an interview with a local daily, the official had described the relative law as firm hinting that strict control will be continued.

But, he complained that his department suffered a shortage of employees. He pointed out that the department has currently 65 employees and this number could not be sufficient to cover all the country's areas. He called for the setting up of the necessary study to contain this problem.

Speaking of the penalties to be applied on violators, the official said that penalties ranged from a warning to the revoking of the commercial license of the shop. In some cases the violating shops will be closed down for a specific period or fined.



Computer system launched

THE Kuwait Danish Computer Company (KDCC) yesterday launched the RC 900/RC 9000 computer systems manufactured by RC International (RCI) of Denmark. The RC systems range from 80386 multi-user systems to large mainframes, such as the RC 9000, which is a UNIX based system with RISC architecture and be configured from 1 to 32 CPUs in one configuration.

The launch was made at a seminar on computer systems, held at Kuwait Sheraton's Grand Ballroom. More than 150 experts from ministries, banks, oil and education sectors and other government bodies participated.

KDCC began distributing RCI products in 1976, and was one of the first computer companies to provide turnkey solutions to the Kuwaiti market. Some of the bigger computerisation programmes undertaken by KDCC include the civil registration information system network for PACI and a telephone directory inquiry system for the Ministry of Communications. Picture shows: Gunar Laursen (left) and Dr A. Abed, two speakers at the seminar.

Rawda residents bemoan facilities

RAWDA area is one of the ideal areas in the country and all necessary facilities are provided including co-operative societies, Islamic library, wedding hall and a police station.

To expound on this scenario, a local daily interviewed a cross-section of residents.

The general consensus is that though the area is highly rated for its cleanliness, commodities at the co-operative society are in short supply, prices of some commodities are high and the co-operative needs reorganising.

On the health services, they said that there is a shortage of attending physicians at the clinics and quite often medicines are not available. "Wasta" also is predominant and negatively affects bonafide patients. Further, it was claimed that the clinic has

no night duty doctor and people are put to much hardship to go to the adjacent clinics in other areas.

Facilities. On recreational facilities, residents said that the children of the area are in need of a garden, as the current garden which was called Jamal Abdumassad Garden has been neglected and has no adequate facilities. They said that residents of the area are playing role in afforestation and greenery plans adopted by the country.

On security issues, they said that the area is in need of vigilant security personnel as incidents of theft and vandalism have increased. Electric failures have been common, they said and added that Block No. 2 of the area suffers routine electricity cut.



Raft race

Teams from the Messilah Beach Hotel and Kuwait Danish Dairies will take to the water to practise for the raft race on May 11 at the Messilah Beach Hotel.

Project failures attributed to poor marketing

KIB finances 20 industrial projects

THE chairman of the board and the managing director of the Kuwait Industrial Bank (KIB) Mohammad Al Yousef has expressed his belief that the failure of most industrial projects in the country is attributed to administrative and marketing problems facing these industries.

He said the interest rate imposed on loans offered by the bank is not responsible for the failure of industrial projects. He pointed out that these rates are

not high.

Yousef said the initial feasibility studies submitted to the bank account for 5 per cent interest rate, and outline the economic feasibility of the proposed industrial project in the light of the specified interest rate.

He added that those who push for a reduction in interest rates on industrial loans fail to consider that these long-term loans which range from 7 to 8 years, and that the related interest rates

are unaffected by market fluctuations. Besides the grace period offered from the date of inaugurating or operating the project could last up to 24 months.

He said that the bank would in certain cases re-schedule debts or even overlook some if the industrial project has encountered difficulties outside the control of its owner, pointing out that the interest rates are not a big amount if compared with the other expenditures of factories

such as salaries and maintenance.

The size of loans offered by the bank is commensurate with the nature and capital of the proposed industrial project. He added that these loans are not limited as some think.

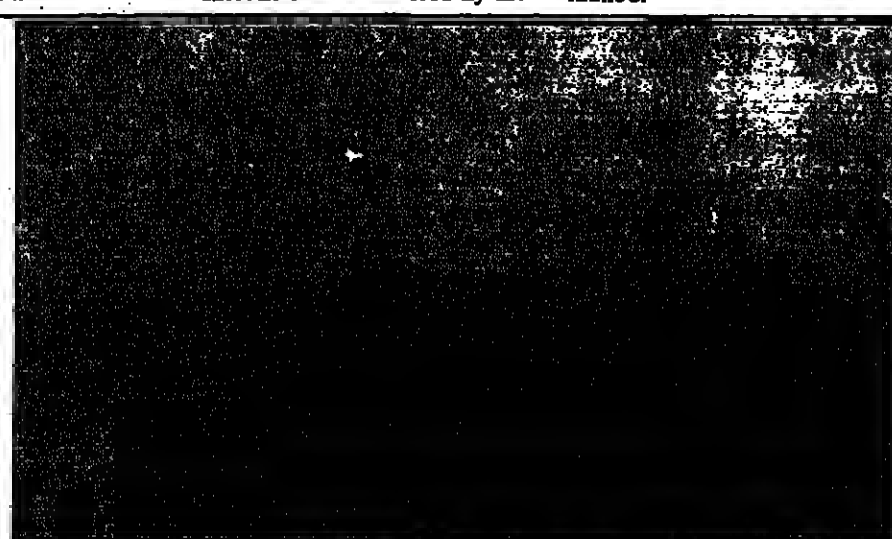
He said that the bank will occasionally contribute up to 50 per cent of the funding of industrial project, and by 100 per cent to the expansion of the project. He pointed out that the total amount of loans offered by the

bank during 1989 is tantamount to KD 23.5 million, with percentage increase of 1368 per cent since 1988 and 227 since 1987.

He said that the bank agreed during the last year to finance 20 industrial projects with a total cost of over KD 31 million. He added that the value of cumulative loans offered by the bank since its establishment in 1974 is around KD 327 million distributed over 405 projects with an estimated total cost of more than KD 617 million.



Part of the new waterfront.



Building for ladies and mosque.



Mosque for men.



Popular seaside cafe.

5th stage of waterfront to cost KD 16.5m

THE fifth stage of the waterfront project will be distinguished by its architectural style, the managing director of the design department at the Ministry of Public Works, Fatimah Al Sabah said.

In an interview with a local daily, the official said that this stage, which is envisaged to cost about KD 16.5 million, will be completely different than the other four and has been

specifically designed to reflect the country's legacy.

The project which will extend from Ras Al Salmiya up to the Popular Cafe, will be contracted for by the public tender next

month.

The official said that Salmiya Island has been excluded from the project, but added that a watch tower will be built at the end of the construction site. The

project will be provided with all facilities including service centres, car parks for 790 cars, in addition to cruiser berths capable of accommodating about 90 cruisers.

Visit visa can be changed to public sector permit: Bennai

Visa trading penalties tougher

EXPATRIATES holding visitors' visas can convert them into work permits only if they are recruited by the public sector, according to Col Nasser Abdul Hadi Al Bennai, director of the Ahmadi Immigration Department.

Commenting on the employment scene of expatriates, he said that it is against the law to recruit any person who is staying illegally in the country, or to employ any individual who is employed by a different sponsor. Violators will face a jail term of maximum of six months or a fine of KD 200 to KD 500, the official said.

On the issue of dependent visas, he said that they are issued to applicants whose salaries are KD 450 if employed in the public sector and KD 600 in the private sector. In this respect, dependent visas are issued to boys

until they attain the age of 21, but girls are offered dependent visas until they get married. However, those who are students at Kuwait University are given residences which are renewed on a yearly basis until graduation.

Col Bennai said that sponsors who accept payment will be liable to a jail term of one year and a fine of KD 1,000.

Expatriates who retire from the private sector will be given a three-month residence permit on completion of services.

Students studying abroad, or those who are under medical treatment are exempted from the ban imposed on entering the country after six months. However, they have to produce documentary evidence, the official said.

Continuing, he said that there is a plan to set up kiosks for selling stamps at immigration

departments in the five governorates.

The official disclosed that all Kuwaiti's exits are equipped with special technological systems as also all Kuwaiti embassies abroad. These facilities enable authorities to verify the official data or work permit stamps and related formalities to detect any attempted forgery. He called on those arriving in Kuwait with valid residence visas to also expired passport attached to the new one to contact the relevant immigration department to have the visa transferred to the new passport.

Arab or foreign women married to Kuwaiti husbands will be given residence visas in the case of divorce or death of their husbands up to a maximum of five years, which can be renewed. Children of such marriages will be Kuwaiti, Col Bennai said.

Last day to register

(Continued from Page 1)

Following are the names of the candidates who registered on the 1st day:

1st constituency — Sharq
Salah Bager Khairi
Rashed Abdullah Al Sharah
Mbarak Mazyed Al Mutairi
Hamdan Thamer Al Souwyan
Haider Sayed Ismael Moustafawi

2nd constituency — Mirqab
Fahed Naser Al Rougaib
Moustafa Ahmed Al Ayoub

3rd constituency — Qibla
Awad Fahed Al Mutairi

4th constituency — Da'ya
Hassan Ali Omran
Saqr Saleh Al Enzi

5th constituency — Qadisiya
Mbarak Abdullah Abdullah
Hussain Abdullah Al Safar
Saoud Abdulaziz Al Sahe'e
Abdul Mohsen Mohamed Al Hussaini

6th constituency — Faiha
Khaled Abdul Aziz Al Rabah

7th constituency — Kaifan
Mohamed Ali Al Bahar
Anwar Abdullah Al Awadi

8th constituency — Hawalli
Fareed Mohamed Omar Serri

9th constituency — Adaliya
Abdullah Hussain Al Za'bi
Mashhour Naser Al Naser
Zayed Saffaq Al Khashab

10th constituency — Adaliya
Khaled Abdulaziz Al Shaqbi
Abbas Mohamed Al Wazzan
Mahmoud Ali Haidar
Abdul Thumyan Al Ghanim
Fawzi Bader Al Fouzan
Abdul Aziz Abdullah Al Wozayyan

11th constituency — Khaldiya
Mohamed Hassan Bin Eidan
Fahed Ahmad Al Baz
Hisham Naser Al Abdjalal
Yousef Jassam Al Fahed

12th constituency — Salmiya
Jam'an Mohamed Al Hraidi

13th constituency — Rumaitiya
Abdulla Hassan Kamshad

Saoud Abdul Aziz Al Attar
Faisal Khaled Bou Hamad
Abbas Hussain Al Khadiri
Yousef Hamad Al Jidi
Abdul Aziz Shar' Al Lahon

14th constituency — Abraq Khaifan
Khalaf Saad Al Barazi

15th constituency — Farwaniya
Hmoud Abdullah Al Qouoraifa
Mutairi

16th constituency — Omariya
Faisal Ibrahim Al Ahmed
Mohamed Rabe' Al Arada
Ayed Naser Al Rasheedi

17th constituency — Juleeb Al Shiyoukh
Nawal Sultan Al Mutairi

18th constituency — Sulabikhat
Saqr Awad Al Rasheedi
Sweidan Arada Al Antari
Abdulla Arbud Al Bahlili

19th constituency — New Jahra
Rwaidhid Saad Al Harbi

20th constituency — Jahra
Zaid Mbarak Al Mutairi

21st constituency — Ahmedi
Jahaz Khaled Al Oraibi
Ahmed Abdul Aziz Al Misfir
Jaber Abdullah Al Kerebani
Abdul Rida Al Zankawi

22nd constituency — Riqqa
Mbarak Fahid Al Ajmi
Mohamed Abdullah Al Kandari

23rd constituency — Sabahiya
Hmoud Mithal Al Kribani
Khaled Mithal Al Azemi

24th constituency — Fahahel
Saad Dajimao Al Azemi
Mabdi Barak Al Azemi
Fahed Abdullah Al Azemi
Hassan Mohamed Al Khalidi
Nabed Naser Al Hajri
Naser Hmoud Al Hashar
Rashed Faris Al Azemi

25th constituency — Umm Al Haiman
Eid Ali Al Azemi
Moutlak Saad Al Azemi
Saoud Naser Al Azemi

Ropme to evaluate cleanup progress

KUWAIT, May 8, (Kuna): Representatives of eight littoral states of the Arabian Gulf and several marine pollution foreign experts began a three-day meeting here today to evaluate progress of plans to clear Gulf waters from wreckage of vessels and other objects sunk during the war between Iraq and Iran.

The meeting, the fourth session of the Marine Pollution Monitoring Committee of the Regional Organisation for Protection of Marine Environment (Ropme) would focus on offers made by several international companies to execute programmes of clearing the Gulf waters from sunk objects.

Ropme groups Kuwait, Iraq, Bahrain, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Oman and Iran.

Representatives of a number of sea pollution combatting international firms as well as ecological experts are taking part in the meeting.

Ropme's technical and administrative affairs co-ordinator, Dr Badriya Al Awadi of Kuwait said the meeting will update data and information on location of sunk objects and probe efforts made since the last session to lift them.

She said hazards of the marine environment in the region call for a regional and collective approach to curb them. She further stressed that there was a political desire among Ropme member states to join hands to ensure the success of plans to clear the Gulf waters from any pollution or obstacles that might damage the marine environment.

Airport bribery

(Continued from Page 1)

Allegedly, the "agent" confessed he took a bribe from two passengers allowing them to carry free baggage on board an Air India flight last Monday. He also alleged an "official" was part of the scam. Two passengers who had boarded the flight were also detained for questioning.

For some months, airline circles have been rife with reports regarding the alleged activities of a group of agents who allow passengers to get away with excess baggage without paying to the airline. They reportedly make contact with passengers on the airport and take a percentage of what should be paid for extra luggage. It has been alleged they split the day's earnings between the agent and his accomplices at the airport.

Sources claim the "agents" operated with the complicity of various airline staff and uniformed officers. And the scam was run mainly on the sub-continent sector. The Air official, who was arrested, had acquired a reputation for strictly discouraging such practices and had lost many friends in the process. He is widely respected in airline circles for his principled stand on such issues.

Sri Lankan embassy

The Embassy of Sri Lanka will remain closed on May 9 and 10, (Wednesday and Thursday) on the occasion of "Wesak" festival in Sri Lanka.

Audio-visual depicts 'Faces of the Desert'

By Jadranka Porter
Arab Times staff

TWO exceptionally gifted Poles joined their talents to produce a most moving and artistic portrayal of Kuwait desert in an audio-visual show at the Kuwait University students' club Monday night.

"Faces of the Desert," a fantasy symphony as performed by its composer Marek Bilinski on electronic instruments, the synthesiser and sampler, is an awesome piece of music capable of touching the very core of one's emotional and aesthetic world.

The recording of the music was accompanied by a slide projection of stunning pictures by Jacek Wozniak, who proved to be a master of photography and an equal to Bilinski in terms of creativity. The two artists transformed the stereotype image of a barren, dry and monotonous Kuwaiti desert into a luxury of life, shapes sounds and colour.

A comparatively small audience of mainly Poles and Kuwaitis were pellbound throughout the show and rewarded the artists with thunderous applause. But no one was as surprised as the Kuwaiti, Amer al-Sayid, whose jaw dropped as he watched and listened in amazement.

"Is this Kuwait?" he asked. "You showed me the Kuwait that I never knew."

Indeed, many of us in the audience felt at the end of the show as if our vision was restored and one wanted to rush out to the desert to feast one's eyes on the landscape.

The most refreshing aspect of the slide projection was that it completely ignored urban Kuwait and showed the country as it must always have been. In fact it was a slide presentation that had no people in it, except for a decaying carcass of a camel. And yet it was charged with life and drama as seen, for example, in a slide portraying sun rays as they push through a rupture in a cloud to reach the sand dunes.

Effect

But much of the dramatic effect comes from the superb Bilinski's score. It has been acknowledged that the electronic music can have greater range and impact than the one performed on conventional instruments. Bilinski used this to his advantage to create a music story that brims with suspense. His music is a celebration of life which is born from the ashes of destruction of such magnitude that nothing lesser than a cosmic collision could have caused it.

Bilinski's apocalyptic music which thrives on contrast brings forth vividly the images of doomsday when calamity strikes the entire world. Life stops in a silent moment only to give way to surviving, if crippled, forces that seek to recuperate and restore past might. These new beginnings of the world when fresh blades of grass push their way up through the sand, when the new sun rises are among the most lyrical passages in the symphony.

They grow in volume and intensity and throb through *Tempo di Bolero*, which attracted new fans when it brought beads of perspiration on Bo Derek's forehead in "10", a movie that tickled more than just the imagination of many a man. But Bilinski's Bolero has a much more



Wozniak (left) and Bilinski.

universal function, it symbolises rebirth and the triumph of positive over the evil forces.

This conflict of good and evil, interlaced with passages suggesting fear, delight or pain is evident in other Bilinski's works many of which have been made into TV recitals or video clips aired on Polish television. He made a splendid job of Bach's Toccata in D minor, in itself a formidable piece of music, and almost outdid himself in the sound track for a movie called *The Friend of the Jolly Devil*.

It is interesting to note that both Bilinski and Wozniak have been linked with Solidarity (the Polish trade union that won in the last elections) during its early days.

Wozniak became famous as the Solidarity photographer before it was outlawed in 1982. And Bilinski produced video recordings that implied criticism of the authority's repressive measures. Among these is the sound track for *The Little Prince* that was also screened on Monday.

Bilinski's and Wozniak's work is so outstanding that it deserves to be shown to a wider audience. Kuwait's Ministry of Information would do well to buy the production and show it abroad during its promotional campaigns. For not only is it a true face of Kuwait, it is also presented in a most artistic and innovative manner.

Auto-theft on the increase: Mukhled

THE director of the Public Relations Department at the Interior Ministry Fahd Khaled Al Mukhled has said that the failure by car owners to abide by the directions of the ministry authorities is responsible for the increasing rate of auto-theft.

He told a local daily that the nonchalance and indifference shown by car owners made it easy for the car-thieves to go on with their illegal practice. He said that the police stations at various places always received reports of items stolen from cars. However, he commented that owners fail to recall that what exactly the stolen items are, which reflects the degree of indifference.

He stressed the effective inter-co-operation between police and people in putting an end to this phenomenon. He called on car-owners to a minimum level of attention to help stop this illegal phenomenon. The lack of security awareness is a problem that seems difficult to cope with despite the massive security education campaigns, Mukhled said.

Meanwhile Council of Ministers has reportedly requested the General Traffic Department (GTD) to lay down constraints for the renewal of car registration in the name of the buyer.

The GTD had earlier tabled a proposal recommending the issuance of a decision banning the transfer of ownership for cars sold on instalments. Sale could only be effected after the owner of the car submits a certificate proving that the full price of the car has been paid, or a statement by the seller approving the registration of the car in the name of the buyer.

Co-op union accused of hiking prices

THE chairman of Jahra Co-operative Society Jazza Al Qahs has accused the Union of Co-operative Societies of hiking prices of commodities sold at the co-operative societies. He added that these prices are about 20 per cent more than prices of commodities in local markets and added that the Union increased prices because merchants succeeded in influencing the price committee.

Al Qahs pointed out that he discussed the increase of prices with purchasing committees of his co-operative and asked them to make a comprehensive study to find the reason and source of increases. The

study showed that prices of commodities bought directly by the co-operative from local markets are far less than prices of commodities supplied by the union. He added that the union prices important items and increased prices of some items by reducing weight of their packs and cans and increasing their prices at the same time, such as Egyptian corn oil.

He called on officials of the union to arrange for discussions between him and them on this question. But the dialogue should be public and covered by the local media to allow consumers to know who increased the prices.

UAE, Algeria agree to step up bilateral co-operation

ABU DHABI, May 8, (OPECNA). The United Arab Emirates and Algeria have agreed to boost economic, trade and technical co-operation, including the establishment of a joint investment company.

A statement by the UAE Economy and Commerce Ministry, issued after a meeting of the

two countries' joint committee here today, said that the investment concern would be 51 per cent controlled by the Abu Dhabi Fund for Arab Economic Development while the Algerian local development bank would hold the remaining shares.

The ministry said that both sides had reviewed trade

activities and had agreed to expand ties through exhibitions, exchange visits and increased co-operation between their respective chambers of commerce and industry.

It was also agreed to boost relations in education, youth activities, sports and the rehabilitation of the handicapped.

UAE Economy and Commerce Minister Saif Al Jarwan expressed happiness at the outcome of the meeting, stating that "this important accomplishment embodies the spirit of co-operation and understanding that prevailed during their talks."

Algerian Economy Minister

Ghazi Hidouci said at the end of his three-day visit that he was happy about the results of the meeting and affirmed his commitment to put them into action. He also confirmed his country's attendance at the Abu Dhabi international exhibition which is due to be held in January 1991.

ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

OF ALL the things you wear, your expression is the most important — John Ruskin, English writer-art critic (1819-1900).

Romanian reforms

Generation gap proves obstacle

BUCHAREST. (Reuter): Romania's attempts to switch smoothly from tyranny to democracy have hit the generation gap, with young people claiming the revolution was hijacked by neo-communists and the over-40s settling for what they've got.

Nowhere is this more clearly illustrated than in Bucharest's University Square, where a marathon anti-government demonstration entered its 13th day on Friday.

The protesters, many of whom faced the machine-guns of dictator Nicolae Ceausescu's security forces last December, are mostly in their 20s and have lost none of their revolutionary fervour in the past four months.

Their enemy is new communism and their main target is President Ion Iliescu, who has headed a hastily-assembled National Salvation Front (NSF) government since Ceausescu's overthrow and execution on Christmas Day.

Lead

Iliescu, a former communist official who was sacked by Ceausescu 15 years ago for dissent, is virtually certain to lead his NSF party to a victory on May 20 in Romania's first free elections.

An opinion poll published on Friday said two-thirds of the electorate favoured the NSF. Its nearest rival, the Peasants' Party, was backed by one-eighth. Iliescu himself had a 79 per cent rating as the most popular choice for president.

The poll, taken from a sample of just under 1,000 electors, was conducted by an independent organisation of sociologists and demographers.

The University Square demonstrations, whose numbers regularly rise from a few hundred in the morning to several thousand by nightfall, know their presence will have little effect on the outcome of the elections.

"We know the elections are a foregone conclusion but we have to keep up the protest because otherwise we will be giving the revolution away," said a 22-year-old medical student.

"When we were out on the streets last December we were not fighting for someone like Iliescu, a neo-communist."

Postponed

The protesters want the elections to be postponed to give opposition parties more time to organise. But, according to the opinion poll, this is a minority view among Romania's 23 million people.

Only three per cent of those questioned said the elections should be put back, while 88 per cent said May 20 should be kept as polling day. The others were undecided.

The demonstrators are also angry that the NSF, initially formed as an interim body to steer the country to democracy, declared itself a political party and is contesting the elections.

One, demonstrator, a 27-year-old graduate engineer, said: "Obviously someone had to run the country after the revolution and we were content for Iliescu to do this on a temporary basis. Now he has abused that position for his own ends and we will have another communist controlling our lives."

He added: "When you have steered a nation out of revolution you are in a position of great strength with the electorate. We are deeply suspicious of anyone who would play that trick."

This view is generally not shared by those who lived all, or most, of their lives under Ceausescu and his hardline communist predecessors. "I know of few people over the age of 40 who do not believe that life in Romania is now 100 per cent better than it was under Ceausescu," said a 63-year-old professional man who spent five years in a labour camp in the 1960s on trumped up charges of dissent.

Understand

"The older generations cannot understand why the young fought for democracy and only months later are fighting against free elections. It is imperative for stability that we have peaceful elections and give whoever is elected a chance."

Iliescu, who describes the protesters as vagabonds and believes they will eventually become bored and go away, is nevertheless irritated by the demonstration, which has blocked one of Bucharest's main thoroughfares for almost two weeks.

Some of the more hawkish members of the provisional government are known to have urged the use of police to disperse the protesters. But Iliescu and his right-hand man, Prime Minister Petre Roman, have counselled against the use of force, knowing that it would be seized upon by the opposition as proof that the country is in the grip of another dictatorship.

TODAY IN HISTORY

- 1573 — Henry, Duke of Anjou, is elected king of Poland.
- 1688 — Holy Roman Emperor Leopold I signs treaty with Transylvania by which Turkish Suzerainty is removed, and Transylvania becomes a province of the king of Hungary.
- 1738 — Britain reinforces Mediterranean fleet to patrol coast of southern Spain and sends additional ships to West Indies.
- 1788 — Britain passes parliamentary motion for abolishing slave trade.
- 1926 — US Navy Commander Richard E. Byrd and Floyd Bennett become first men to make airplane flight over North Pole.
- 1933 — In Berlin, 25,000 books are thrown into bonfire in first of Nazi book-burnings.
- 1936 — Italy annexes Ethiopia, and King Victor Emmanuel is proclaimed emperor.
- 1944 — Soviet forces liberate Sevastopol in the Crimea in World War II.
- 1946 — Italy's King Victor Emmanuel III abdicates and Umberto II proclaims himself king.
- 1955 — West Germany is admitted as a member of Nato.
- 1967 — India's vice-president Zakir Hussain is named president of India, becoming first Muslim to hold that office.
- 1968 — US and North Vietnamese negotiators assemble in Paris for preliminary Vietnam peace talks.
- 1972 — United Nations report says world no longer has enough grain reserves for buffer against major crop failures.
- 1976 — Bullet-riddled body of Italy's former prime minister Aldo Moro is found in parked car in central Rome, 54 days after his abduction.
- 1987 — Polish jetliner bound for New York crashes into forest outside Warsaw, killing all 183 people aboard.
- 1989 — Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) officially requests membership in Unesco (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization).

Learning from the blockade Lithuania under Soviet 'siege'

VILNIUS, Lithuania, USSR, (UPI): "Excuse the fumes," Andrus told journalists riding in his car. "I have just brought back 100 litres of gas from Byelorussia."

Byelorussian gasoline from the neighbouring republic is also sold on the black market right in Vilnius at 1 to 1.5 roubles (\$1.60 to \$2.40) a litre — some four times the official price of 40 kopecks a litre.

"This is a good lesson for Lithuania in market economics," Sajudis Nationalist Movement official Andrus Kubilius said. "I find nothing illegal in it."

In the second week of fuel embargo by Moscow to make Lithuania revoke its independence declaration of March 11, the upstart republic was still doing things its own way.

Besieged

Its parliament chose Vytautas Landsbergis, a slight former music professor and the godfather of Sajudis, to be president over the broad-shouldered, photogenic communist leader Algirdas Brazauskas.

Landsbergis has been so besieged with requests for interviews that one night he locked the office doors — and played chopin on the piano, witnesses reported.

The musicologist has also elevated Beethoven's Ninth Symphony, which he calls "a symphony of freedom and victory against slavery, insidiousness and darkest hatred," to the status of Lithuania's unofficial anthem.

On a recent Sunday, the republic's national philharmonic played Beethoven's entire Ninth Symphony in Vilnius Cathedral Square. Its strains also resonated through squares and parks in other Lithuanian cities while thousands of Lithuanians pedalled past on bikes to conserve fuel.

The republic, which desperately craves Western attention, has also bridged the language gap in a unique manner. Rather than locals, young Lithuanian Americans manage the government's information service, arranging press conferences, answering phones and generally making life easier for foreign reporters.

Diverted from educational exchange programmes, the Lithuanian Americans are trying to bring about their parent's dream of a reborn independent Lithuania.

Yet despite its declaration of independence, not one nation has recognised Lithuania as the independent nation it was before the Soviet Union annexed it in 1940.

Nor have Western nations offered to sell it oil to break the Soviet fuel embargo, referring the republic to private companies who want dollars it doesn't have.

Even Byelorussia, whose residents are glad to take roubles for the oil they ferry to Lithuania, has served notice that present-day Lithuania contains several regions that belonged to Byelorussia before 1940 and it wants them back.

Surreality

But in obstinate surreality, some bookshop windows display coats of arms of Lithuanian royalty during the "greater Lithuanian" kingdom of the 14th century. At that time Lithuania, then linked to Poland in dynastic marriage, controlled present-day Byelorussia and the Ukraine in a realm stretching from the Baltic to the Black Sea.

Moscow also has reminded Lithuania that its present-day capital Vilnius and the port of Klaipeda were not part of the republic when Josef Stalin annexed it in 1940. Vilnius had been part of Poland and Klaipeda, formerly Memel, had been part of East Prussia.

But Lithuanians spoken to in Vilnius brushed off both Soviet arguments that the declaration was either rash or premature and fears that they may lose territory in a settlement.

"The declaration was made just at the right time," said Yarus, a 58-year-old engineer.

Algirdas, 26, also an engineer, voiced a common theme about the impossibility of revoking independence.

"When a child is born, can you constitutionally declare that it was not born?" he asked, waiting in line for an ice cream. "Maybe Landsbergis could be a bit more diplomatic though."

Kubilius, the official at Sajudis, cut short any talk about annulling the declaration as a way to start talks with Moscow. "If I am 38 years old, can someone declare me 26?" he said.

Andrus, the red-headed, lanky motorist who transported his fuel from Byelorussia, said, "Everyone wants independence. Me? Well, my parents were sent away for 15 years to Siberia."

After annexing the three Baltic states in 1940, Stalin deported about 500,000 natives on charges of nationalism, exiling them to Siberian work camps.

In their stead came Russian workers, and today those ethnic Russians and their children face an uncertain future as the Baltic states drive to independence.

"Where do I go?" said a Russian store clerk. "I

have been here for 38 years, and all my relatives are here. I speak the language (Lithuanian). You see I can't talk about it without getting agitated."

Movements

"All this started from the Baltics," she said of the spreading secessionist and nationalist movements that suddenly make the Russians feel threatened in all the non-Russian republics.

Lithuania has 300,000 ethnic Russians, or about 9 per cent of the population, but Latvia's ethnic Russian population is 33 per cent and Estonia's 27 per cent.

Still, home is home. A recent poll showed 45 per cent of ethnic Russians would vote for Latvian independence and remain there. Observers in Vilnius predict a high percentage of Russians there would also favour sovereignty for Lithuania and not return to the "mainland" of Russia.

Motorists are restricted to 7 gallons (26 litres) a month, fewer cars are on the streets, lines are visible at gasoline stations, and shoppers are stocking up on flour, rice and sugar — all of which the republic imports.



Letters to the editor

Religious tolerance

SIR: I refer to Leslie Atkinson's letter, "Conflicting theories," dated April 26, 1990.

Atkinson reminds Muslims of their rights in France where the mosques are bulldozed while Muslims are praying inside, pork is thrown inside the mosque, stones are thrown at praying Muslims, standing inside the mosque.

All this in a so-called highly civilised country. May I remind Atkinson that France is one of those countries where the azan (call to prayer) is not allowed on loudspeakers. Say no more of the democratic rights.

Talking of the rights of Christians in a Muslim country, he should know that Christians are democratically allowed to practice their rites and rituals, except, openly drinking liquor, open lewdness and obscenity.

You, Atkinson, are enjoying the freedom of expression because, you are living in a country, where a tolerant religion is practised by its people.

Sultan Ahmad Ali,
Sahmya.

Human value

SIR: The widely reported item last news which dominated the newspapers was the Nelson Mandela rock spectacular in London. I was privileged to attend the show of harmony and hope; it was inspirational to hear the speech of Nelson Mandela.

After what Nelson Mandela has gone through, one can but only appreciate his compassion and vision. With 27 years in prison, he spoke of a society where everyone joins to fight against evil of apartheid and all may live like brothers whatever the race, creed or colour may be. He clearly declared that he does not hate South African whites and raised the hopes of everybody that there is finally light at the end of a dark tunnel.

Neil Kinnock, Labour Party leader, also attended the Wembley gala and was one of the 75,000 paying participants. The Conservative-controlled British press took a special note of Kinnock's raised clenched fist salute at the Mandela concert and made every effort to make this gesture of a caring politician look nasty and sinister conveniently overlooking a similar gesture of solidarity by Conservative Sir Geoffrey Howe in Mozambique two years back.

On the one hand where there was message of hope, glory and harmony by leaders like Nelson Mandela and concerned politicians like Neil Kinnock, on the same day, in contrast were the remarks of Norman Tebbit, Conservative Party leader, in the Commons, where debating on the bill to grant British citizenship to Hong Kong families, he raised a point that the British ethnic communities had still not properly absorbed into British society. He lashed out at the ethnic communities' extremist attitudes and condemned them for their contempt of English law.

Issue

The issue in Commons was not the only place where Norman Tebbit raised his objections on ethnic communities in Britain. A day earlier, in an interview with Los Angeles Times, Tebbit made the same point by suggesting what he called "Cricket Test-test" for the

Asian immigrant communities. In his own words, he addressed the Asians, why immigrant Asians in Britain cheer for Pakistan, India or Sri Lanka instead of Britain? Are they still harking back to where they come from or where they are?

He thought this to be a great problem. I think these comments are highly inflammatory and racial. When he talked of Pakistanis or other Asians living in Britain failing the Cricket Test for not supporting the English team, what was plain humour for him was rather in bad taste because when a nation starts using culture and sports as a yardstick to judge the amalgamation of minorities then what comes out is a sort of anarchy and Nazism.

Sports loyalties do not necessarily mean that the communities have not amalgamated into the society. It's rather unity in diversity. Only closed minds and empire-builders can start application of such tests where men are not men but instruments. We should not hate some people and thoughts when we don't know them; such condemnation of thought process and people leads to perpetual vicious cycle of hatred.

Tebbit was the biggest loser. He threw in the towel for the leadership bid of the Conservatives and it was already dead by the end of the week because his lurid language frightened the potential Conservative supporters. Even Los Angeles Times confessed that they were amazed when further on in the interview Tebbit commented that he would be sorry to see the United States become a less Anglo-Saxon country, a less European country.

The pontification of Tebbit is not required for America. US is built for immigration. Many economists in America agree that increased immigration would raise America's standard of living. America is a nation of immigrants and they are a blessing. George Borjas, an economist of University of California at Santa Barbara and a leading expert on economics of immigration, has demolished completely the hourly myth that immigrants take unfairly jobs from US citizens. His recently compiled studies have uncovered that not a single shred of evidence is suggestive of competition from immigrants hurting the natives.

Another economist, Julian Simmonds, has suggested that immigrants of every class and skill invigorate the economy. 27 leading economists, including the past members of President's council of economic advisors, have suggested that increased immigration will raise the US standard of living.

Evidence

We need vision of Mandela and his tolerance. Race prejudice and discrimination decreases the human value. To live anywhere in the world today and to be against equality because of race or colour is like living in Alaska and being against snow (William Faulkner). Hypocritical attitudes that preach righteousness and blessings for only those who have skin colour like their own need to be countered and checked. There is huge reaction to such plain sounding comments and such

unwise allegations make millions of friends for the alleged.

Tebbit should realise that the era where the rule was that injustice lasting for centuries existing among millions of people and covering thousands of square miles of territory is an accomplished fact and not injustice is over. People cherish their freedom and there has been no greater loss and destruction of human society singularly other than by factors of intolerance.

Cricket is about patience, tolerance, gentlemanly conduct and fair play. Tebbit, for your kind information, racism runs counter to the spirit of cricket; it breeds intolerance and unfair tactics. I am sure that the vast majority of the British immigrant community will certainly qualify the so-called Cricket Test-test.

Iqbal Latif,
Kuwait.

Cover subcontinent

SIR: A very substantial number of expatriates from the sub-continent reside and work in Kuwait. If a head count were to be taken, citizens of India, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka would, hands down, outnumber expatriates from other areas such as N. America, Europe or Latin America.

Your news coverage, though laudable, continues to neglect demographic realities in Kuwait.

For instance, large number of your readers are Goan — many of whom are reasonably well-educated. The community is 35-40,000 strong, and the Arab Times appears to be its newspaper of choice.

The recent momentous political developments in Goa as a case in point have, surprisingly, been completely ignored by your newspaper — I refer to the unprecedented epoch-making activities of Churchill Alemão, Dr Luis Piro Barbosa and others like them.

Developments in Kerala, too, often go unnoticed even though the community is over a hundred thousand strong!!

If I feel, mainly by tapping this section of the market that you can increase your circulation and influence.

I would request you therefore, to appoint without delay, foreign correspondents in Panaji and Trivandrum to telegraph news to you as it unfolds. The cost to you — a few dinars — would be insignificant in proportion to the incalculable element of fresh air it would inject into your news coverage.

Another gripe of sorts is the fine type-face you have predilection for using. While undoubtedly enabling you to squeeze in more news, the effect on the reader is counterproductive, one's eyes being the main casualty. The time factor in Kuwait limits one's desire for avid reading, except for the weekends where one has more leisure.

Nivek Aje,
Safat.

ALL Letters to the Editor must contain the writer's name and address. Publication is at the discretion of the Editor and letters are subject to the editing process for space or other reasons.

Gibraltar Colony fears about being left behind

GIBRALTAR. (Reuter): Europe's last colony is worried about getting left behind in a continent whose political map is changing fast.

The tiny British colony of Gibraltar, occupying 2.75 square miles (7.1 square km) on the southern tip of Spain, is becoming an anachronism despite its strategic location. It is also fighting a reputation as a haven for dubious business deals — allegations which it denies.

Spain's Foreign Minister Francisco Fernandez Ordóñez complained recently that Gibraltar was a cancer on the continent and warned "there cannot be a common house with a colony in Europe."

Ceded by Spain in 1713, the Rock of Gibraltar lost its military value after 1945, and Britain's decision to cut the 1,800-man garrison by 700 next year will make a big dent in the service-oriented economy.

Mandate

Chief Minister Joe Bossano is aware his mandate ends in 1992, the same year Europe becomes a single market, and that he has little time to prepare it for the new competitive era. "We have to bring Gibraltar up to the standards of the rest of Western Europe," Bossano, a former building worker with a degree in economics, said in a recent interview.

Since he was elected in a landslide victory two years ago Bossano has begun an ambitious development programme he hopes will help project Gibraltar as a trading and financial centre for Europe. His efforts have helped deposits triple since 1988.

The socialist leader has tightened financial legislation following a scandal in Gibraltar two years ago, and is shaking up the rock's sleepy civil service by halving the highest-paid jobs and closing down departments.

Another priority, he says, will be to clean up Gibraltar's rather seamy appearance, a situation that puts off visitors and has sparked a campaign by a local heritage trust to try to improve public awareness about the environment.

Resembles

Gibraltar at times resembles a bazaar, a strange polyglot mix of djellaba-clad Moroccans jostling with Jews, Spaniards and British expatriates along streets that could have been plucked from an English provincial town.

Bossano, himself of Spanish extraction, is a fierce defender of Gibraltar's status quo, and says he will not give up one inch of it despite talks between Madrid and London that began in 1985.

Britain says it will not give up the colony against the wishes of its citizens, and no local politician dares to suggest any kind of agreement with Spain.

"On the few occasions that an understanding with Spain has been suggested public reaction has been violent," said Louis Triay, a prominent Gibraltar lawyer.

Gibraltar's associate membership of the European Economic Community has not smoothed relations with Spain. If anything it has just made life more complicated for Brussels.

The territorial dispute held up an EEC accord on liberalising air traffic for six months in 1987 as Spain did not recognise Gibraltar as a British airport. The impasse was resolved only when Britain and Spain agreed joint use of the airport.

Bossano has nonetheless blocked the accord, even though it could lead to Spanish investment in airport expansion, seeing it as a first step to losing sovereignty.

"I am in the business of stopping Spain from taking Gibraltar," he said.

Links

He would like to expand the airport to open links with Berlin and other European centres but Gibraltar is currently excluded from the EEC air transport agreement, a ruling he is disputing in the EEC courts.

Airport expansion would attract much-needed capital, a goal made harder by Spanish allegations of drugs smuggling, money laundering and cigarettes contraband, which Gibraltarians see as an attempt to discredit the Rock as a viable community.

Officials here admit contraband in cigarettes is blatant and say an estimated \$400,000 worth a day are smuggled into Spain.

Drugs smuggling directly through the Rock is relatively small, but Spanish officials complain that Gibraltar-registered speedboats are used to transport large quantities of hashish from Morocco to the Costa del Sol.

Drugs and money laundering loomed large in the last round of talks between Britain and Spain in Madrid last February, causing officials to raise a spirited defence of the Rock.

"We have investigated about 30 cases of financial wrongdoing alleged in the Spanish press and haven't found any evidence yet," said Bossano.

British Foreign Minister Douglas Hurd said then his Spanish counterpart had produced no firm evidence to back allegations of shady dealings, but did agree to include Gibraltar in an anti-drugs agreement signed with Spain last year.

QUOTE ME

"The firing is directed to the south in the region where no other vessels can be endangered while the Gulf of Israel is positioned in the centre of the Gulf in Israeli waters. Israeli naval units have long longstanding and clear orders regarding rules of conduct during the passage of King Hussein's yacht... and in the incident noted, the Israeli naval vessel acted in accordance with these instructions." — An Israeli naval statement refuting claims Israel fired at King Hussein's yacht.

"We hope that the Muslims will be able to take the step that will force global arrogance (the United States) to give up the rights of the oppressed." — A Hezbollah official saying the US responded to the hostage release with arrogance.

"They are heading into a blind alley. Jumping out of the frying pan into the fire." — Albanian communist leader Ramiz Alia scoffing at reforms in East Europe.

"In terms of the way people feel, inclusion of a united Germany in Nato is something people don't like and which some have very strong feelings about." — A Kremlin official conveying the sentiments of the Soviet people.

BUSINESS & FINANCE

\$60b IMF aid for Third World, East

Rich, poor talks end in 50pc increase

WASHINGTON, May 8. (Agencies) Rich and poor nations ended more than two years of often tortuous negotiations today by selling a \$60-billion deal to help promote democracy in Eastern Europe and economic reforms in the Third World.

In a complex communiqué reached after talks lasting into the early morning, the International Monetary Fund said it had won support for a 50 per cent rise in the money it will have available for coping with its "heavy workload" of promoting global economic development in the 1990s.

The debate between the rich and poor over economic development now switches to a joint committee of the World Bank and the IMF, where the Third World is expected to press for a stronger strategy for attacking the debt crisis.

US Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady signalled that Washington opposes any changes in the strategy now, arguing that it was working well in reducing the Third World's \$1.3-trillion mountain of debt.

"Debtors countries are already gaining benefits," Brady told the joint development committee today.

In the deal on the IMF's resources, developing countries had to take a smaller increase than they wanted despite fears that the Third World will be ignored over Eastern Europe.

But in return they wrestled a promise from the industrial world that the IMF will review its finances again by 1993, or earlier if necessary.

"We will discharge our new responsibilities but not at the expense of other parts of the membership," IMF Managing Director Michel Camdessus said, seeking to ease Third World fears of being crowded out by demands from Eastern Europe.

"Monetary officials said that the negotiations almost broke down last night over a controversial US proposal to revoke the voting rights of member nations who consistently refuse to pay off their debts to the fund.

Eleven developing countries, including Sudan, Zambia and Vietnam, are currently behind on their payments to the fund to the tune of more than \$4 billion.

Despite the objections of the developing world, the interim committee agreed to link approval of the so-called suspension clause to enactment of the increase in the IMF's capital.

The Bush administration had argued that such a link was necessary if it was to have a chance of convincing the US Congress to put up money for the IMF capital increase at a time of tight budgets in the United States.

Representatives of some developing nations had to check with their governments late yesterday to get acceptance of Washington's contentious proposal which would require an 85 per cent vote by the fund's members for approval.

IMF officials emphasised that a member country would only be suspended as a last resort and said that 10 of the 11 developing countries in areas — the only exception was Cambodia — were already working to clear up their late payments.

Industrial nations cleared the way for the accord on Sunday by setting aside their internal squabbles over their voting power at the fund.

The new shape of the fund for the 1990s sees the United States remaining in the top spot, but with Japan moving up from fifth place to a joint second with West Germany in recognition of Tokyo's growing economic might.

Britain and France agreed to share the next spot.

While the negotiations have been complex and sometimes unhelpfully technical, their resolution will provide the IMF with financing to deal with the festering \$1.3-trillion debt crisis and the emergence of Eastern Europe as a market-based economy over the next few years.

IMF set to crown Japan's ascent

WASHINGTON, May 8. (Reuters) The International Monetary Fund is set to crown Japan as the world's second most powerful economy, but Tokyo has seen its achievement overshadowed by the historic emergence of democracy in Eastern Europe.

Economic policy makers were working on an intricate deal last night that would increase the IMF's resources by \$60 billion and give Japan the number two spot at the fund, behind the United States. Tokyo currently ranks fifth.

Tokyo has long argued for a greater say in running the IMF, the international organisation responsible for policing the world economy, commensurate with its economic strength.

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"The package... is designed to strengthen the role of the International Monetary Fund as the central pillar of the international financial system," Michael Wilson, chairman of the IMF's policy-making interim committee, said.

Both rich and poor nations compromised over a deal that had a little bit of something for everyone.

"Each country had to take a little water with its wine to come to an agreement," said Wilson, Canada's finance minister.

Polish-style shock best IMF conclusion

WASHINGTON, May 8. (Reuters) The International Monetary Fund, stepping up help for the new democracies of Eastern Europe, is rapidly coming to the conclusion that the best approach to economic reform is Polish-style shock treatment.

IMF economists stress that there can be no single textbook approach to help Eastern European nations shrug off four decades of communist central planning and make the transition to Western-style free markets.

But they say on balance that the ambitious shock treatment now being tried by Poland — an experiment being watched intensely by all its East European neighbours — appears to be working better than a more gradualist approach.

"I am always sceptical of recipes to be applied to all countries," one senior IMF official dealing with Eastern Europe told journalists.

"But at the same time you have to recognise there are obvious advantages to the shock treatment approach... the more ambitious approach is the one that should be favoured."

Poland, Hungary and Romania plus Yugoslavia — always keen to avoid being classified as an East bloc state — are fund members while Czechoslovakia and Bulgaria have applied to join following last year's collapse of communist rule that swept through Eastern Europe.

The fund estimates in its latest world economic outlook that output in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union could fall by 1-1.2 to two per cent this year.

But while all of the economies have been dragged down by cen-

tral planning and monolithic state structures, none are facing exactly the same problem. Poland is weighed down with \$40 billion of debt while Romania's is negligible.

It is Poland's bold experiment to switch rapidly to the free market capitalist philosophy that has captured the imagination of Western governments seeking to work out a strategy to support the movement to reform in East Europe.

Warsaw's comprehensive plan, backed by a \$715 million IMF credit and \$1 billion 'stabilisation loan' from Western nations, has already won the backing of IMF managing director Michel Camdessus.

Polish Finance Minister Leszek Balcerowicz, now in Washington for talks with the IMF and negotiations on an increase in the fund's resources, has pushed through radical reform in a programme launched January 1.

The zloty was devalued steeply, many price subsidies removed and industry told to fend for itself. Although unemployment has risen sharply, IMF economists say this could be a short-term problem in Eastern European nations if shock treatment succeeds in turning economies around.

Poland's inflation has fallen sharply from 70 per cent per month to single digit level, the budget has returned to surplus and many once-scarce goods have returned to shops.

"When Poland embarked on its programme... it didn't have the luxury of much choice if it was going to come to grips with a deepening and accelerating crisis," one IMF official said.

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Sofia, Berlin, EEC sign pact

BRUSSELS, May 8. (AP) The European Economic Community signed accords with East Germany and Bulgaria today, completing the first stage of a bid to boost trade and economic links across a once-divided continent.

The 12-nation EEC already has signed trade and economic co-operation pacts with the Soviet Union, Hungary and Poland.

Yesterday, it signed an agreement with Czechoslovakia, leaving Romania the only East European nation that has taken steps toward democracy and free enterprise but does not yet have an accord with the EEC.

Negotiations to replace a suspended 1980 pact with Romania are expected to open soon, although EEC officials privately question Romania's commitment to democracy and economic reforms.

The 10-year accords with Eastern Europe provide for economic co-operation in many sectors, from farming to the environment. They also ease curbs on imports of East European goods and are aimed at raising two-way trade across the continent.

Currently, that trade totals only \$50 billion a year, half of it between the EEC and the Soviet Union.

On April 28, the EEC said it was ready to start a second stage of economic relations with Eastern Europe; talks for association accords that also cover political consultations.

Eager

Some East European nations are eager to become full EEC members as quickly as possible. Czechoslovakia, for example, has said it wants to join by 1999.

But the EEC, citing dramatic differences in economic development, has ruled out full membership for any East European nation except East Germany, which will join after merging with West Germany.

The 10-year EEC-East German accord on trade and economic co-operation signed today is thus a formality. It will be changed once the two Germanys create an economic and monetary union and will disappear with formal unification.

Until then, Irish Foreign Minister Gerard Collins said, "this trade and economic co-operation agreement will help to bring the two parties closer together."

Collins, whose country holds the EEC's rotating presidency, signed the East German and Bulgarian accords on behalf of the EEC at two separate ceremonies.

Economics Minister Gerhard Pohl signed for East Germany, and Bulgarian Prime Minister Andrey Loukanov signed for his country.

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Unofficial trading

Street traders deal in shares outside the Istanbul stock exchange. Although shares are traded on the floor of the exchange, unofficial trading takes place outside for cash. (Reuters wirephoto)

Business Briefs

Islamic chambers discuss trade

DAMASCUS, May 8. (Kuna) Twenty Muslim countries, including several Gulf states, began here today discussions on how to substantially increase inter-commercial activities and enhance trade dealings among them.

Opening the meetings of the executive committee of the Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Syrian Minister of Supply and Internal Trade Hassan Al-Sagha said exchange of trade among Muslim countries has not exceeded ten per cent of their total foreign trade.

In comparison, he added, the European Economic Community's trade volume reached sixty per cent.

Saudi names Opec board chairman

RIYADH, May 8. (Opec) The Saudi Arabian government has announced the appointment of Suleiman Jasir Al-Herbish as its representative on the Opec board of governors.

He replaces Abdul Aziz Al-Turki who took over as secretary general of the Organisation of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) on March 1 this year.

Al-Herbish has been assistant deputy minister of petroleum and mineral resources since 1983 and a member of the directing board of various important companies, including the Arab Maritime Petroleum Transport Company, a joint Saudi-Kuwait venture. He is also chairman of the board of the Arabian drilling company, set up jointly by Petroleum and Sedco Forex of France.

Oil firms share trading suspended

TEL AVIV, May 8. (Reuters) The Tel Aviv Stock Exchange suspended trading in shares of oil exploration companies today after Israel's Israel Inc. reported it may have struck commercial quantities of gas at an offshore field.

An exchange spokeswoman said six companies' shares were suspended. Israel Inc. had notified the stock exchange of the potential find and said it would clarify the potential within a few days, the spokeswoman said.

Thatcher to face attack on economy

LONDON, May 8. (Kuna) The beleaguered government of UK Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher will face a new attack tomorrow with the release of a report, calling into question the success of its economic policies. It was reported here today.

British MPs have disclosed that the report shows that Britain's poor have not benefited under Margaret Thatcher's premiership as much as the government claims.

Egypt urges Swiss for co-operation

GENEVA, May 8. (Kuna) Mohamed Abdel Wahab, Minister of Industry of Egypt, today called on Swiss enterprises to benefit from the tremendous economic potential offered by the Egyptian economy in the light of the various reform measures being implemented — whereby the private sector would be the "engine of growth" in the 1990s.

Addressing the Arab-Swiss Chamber of Commerce and Industry on the occasion of its 16th annual general meeting, the Egyptian industry minister presented an overview of the Egyptian economy, the industrial strategy for the 90s, and the avenues for mutual economic co-operation between the Swiss and Egyptian firms.

Algeria, UAE plan joint investment co

ALGIERS, May 8. (Reuters) Algeria, increasingly keen to attract foreign capital to shore up its ailing economy, will form a joint investment company with the United Arab Emirates (UAE), the Algerian news agency APS said today.

APS said an accord had been reached after talks in Abu Dhabi between Algerian Economy Minister Ghazi Hedoudi and his UAE counterpart Saif Al-Jarwan.

The envisaged company, 51 per cent held by the Abu Dhabi development fund and 49 per cent by the State Bank of Algeria, De Development, will finance projects in

Dollar rises against yen

Tokyo stocks close firm

LONDON, May 8. (AP) The dollar gained slightly against the Japanese yen today but declined against the West German mark.

Gold prices edged higher. In Tokyo, the dollar closed at 158.05 yen, up 0.25 yen from yesterday's close of 157.80 yen. The dollar had fallen 1.28 yen in the three previous trading days.

Later in London, the dollar was quoted at 157.85 yen.

"Yen-dollar trading was quiet as market participants are awaiting the start of the US treasury bond auction tonight," said Mamoru Tabata, a currency dealer with Mitsui Bussan Kaisha Bank. "The dollar stayed in an extremely narrow range."

Massumi Koyama, chief customer dealer at Bank of Tokyo, said there was not much interest in yen-dollar deals among either buyers or sellers. Trading against European currencies occupied center stage, he said.

"Cross-trading against the (West German) mark, Swiss franc and even the sterling pound will continue" overnight, Koyama said. If the dollar weakens against those currencies, it will advance no further than the lower 159 yen range against the yen, he predicted.

Other dollar rates in Europe, compared with late yesterday.

In London, the pound sterling was quoted at \$1.6735 today, compared with \$1.6710 in European trading late yesterday. London markets were closed yesterday for a national bank holiday.

Tokyo stock prices closed slightly higher in heavy trading today, with investors optimistic that the index would stay above the 30,000-point level, while the dollar ended barely changed.

The key 225-share Nikkei index closed up 14.31 points or 0.05 per cent to 30,970.58, despite fears there would be selling after it surged 782.63 points yesterday.

"I think the market is looking a lot healthier considering how much we went up yesterday," said Brad Bauer, broker at Barclays de Zoete Wedd Securities Japan. "We're not about to go forward to an all-time high, but the worst is behind us."

About 750 million shares changed hands, the highest since April 9, against 600 million traded yesterday. The Nikkei fluctuated in a range of about 300 points, exceeding 31,000 briefly in late morning trade.

"The target of 31,000, at which point the market will have recovered

both countries.

Algeria is in the throes of economic reform designed to end central planning and make its giant state sector responsive to market forces.

Part of the reform is a new law on money and credit that for the first time authorises joint ventures with foreign partners in which the Algerian side has a minority share.

Burdened by a huge foreign debt of \$24 billion, Algeria suffers a severe hard currency shortage that has crippled industry and blocked new development projects needed for economic revival.

The council reviewed progress of data bank

Record rise in Third World inflation

Consumer prices rose 86.3pc in 1989

WASHINGTON, May 8. (AP): Consumer prices rose a record 86.3 per cent in Third World countries last year, spurred by a 350 per cent rise in Latin America, the International Monetary Fund reported yesterday.

Among 22 industrial countries the rise was only 4.3 per cent, up from the 3.4 per cent of 1988. The increases ranged from 1.1 per cent in the Netherlands to 20.8 per cent in Iceland.

Japan had 2.3 per cent and West Germany 2.8 per cent.

The United States, the world's largest economy, was a little above the average at 4.8 per cent.

The fund gets figures from its member countries but calculates on its own basis to make them comparable, so that rates for individual countries sometimes differ from those published by governments themselves.

Latin American average prices were heavily increased by runaway inflation in two

of the area's most important countries: Argentina 3,079 per cent and Brazil 1,287 per cent. The mean Argentine housewives were paying roughly 30 times more for the same basket of goods at the end of 1989 than at the beginning of the year.

Puerto Rico had an even higher rate: 3,398 per cent.

Mexico, which has a strict austerity programme, dropped to 20 per cent from 114 per cent in 1988.

The fund classifies 130 of its members as "developing countries," including those in Eastern Europe. The Soviet Union does not belong and the fund gives no figures for it.

For its seven European members outside the industrial group, the inflation rate rose in 1989 to an average 232 per cent, largely because of Yugoslavia's 1,239 per cent and Poland's 244 per cent. A fund official said Poland's inflation has dropped sharply this

year because of the new non-communist government's shock programme to shift away from communism to a market system.

Annual figures for Africa and the Middle East were incomplete. Many Middle East countries have not been reporting in recent years. Among those that have, Israel's rate rose to 20.2 per cent last year from 16.3 per cent and Egypt's to 21.3 per cent from 17.7 per cent.

Africa's average appeared steady: 18.9 per cent in 1988 and 21.3 per cent in the third quarter of 1989. The African average masked a wide range, from Zambia's annual 186 per cent last October to small price reductions in several countries including Chad, Togo and the Central African Republic.

Only Asia's average showed a decline in the inflation rate: For 21 countries there the annual average dropped to 10.2 per cent last year from the 11.8 per cent of 1988.

Oapec attacks tax on oil goods

Kuwait, Iran to hold talks

KUWAIT, May 8. (AP): The Organisation of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries yesterday accused oil-consuming nations of damaging investment plans of crude producers with high taxes on oil products.

In the May issue of Oapec's monthly bulletin, the Kuwait-based organisation said the taxes on oil products make it difficult for the oil producers to predict consumption levels in the industrialised world.

"The enormous investment needed to expand production capacity require a comparable increase in consumption to make them economically justified," Oapec said.

"However, the prospects for growth in world oil demand are subject to constant revision."

Oapec contended that some countries have hiked taxes during falling oil prices, indicating they were determined to reduce domestic oil consumption through taxation.

Concern about environmental protection may lead to still-higher taxes, it said.

Oapec called for a dialogue with the consuming states to help them in planning future investments in expanding their oil output capacity.

Oapec groups 11 Arab oil producing states, several of which also doubled as members of the 13-nation Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries. They include Gulf Arab exporters Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates and Iraq.

"The scale of investments and manpower required to expand the production capacity of Oapec countries is such that these countries must first ascertain the forecast pattern of demand on which to base their investment decisions," Oapec said.

"So long as no construction atmosphere of co-operation exists with the consumers, the producers cannot be expected to make investments without any sure signs of profits."

Iran's oil minister will pay an official visit to Kuwait for talks with its oil minister Sheikh Ali Khalifa Al Sabah, an oil industry newsletter said yesterday.

"This visit will give us a chance to discuss long-term strategy and co-operation between our two countries," the Nicosia, Cyprus-based Middle East Economic Survey (Mees) quoted Sheikh Ali as saying.

"We have a lot in common with Iran in terms of ultimate objectives and it is about time that we sat together to explore means of co-operation in these areas in a rational manner."

The visit, due to begin May 15, is a follow-up to discussions held between the two ministers in Geneva last week.

Alghazadeh and Sheikh Ali were in Geneva for an emergency Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) meeting to agree on temporary oil production cutbacks to steady the shaky oil market and maintain price levels.

Alghazadeh told reporters that he had lengthy talks with Sheikh Ali on the long-term prospects for the oil market, and that the two ministers had agreed to meet again to continue these discussions.

Meanwhile, Saudi Arabia, the world's largest oil exporter, on Monday joined another key oil exporter, Kuwait, in welcoming the recent agreement among members of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) to curtail the cartel's overall production to stabilise oil prices.

But the Arab kingdom cautioned that containing the present glut on the oil market and achieving the targeted benchmark price of \$18 a barrel would require all member states to stick to their decreed quotas.

International crude oil futures moved up in light trading Monday a few days after Opec oil and energy minister agreed to cut back excess production.

The New York Mercantile Exchange (Nymex) West Texas Intermediate (WTI), the American benchmark crude, gained 29 cents to close at \$18.27 a barrel for June delivery while the July contract put on 27 cents to finish at \$18.86.

The state treasury currently owns 51 per cent of Universal with the rest held by 72 state enterprises. After privatisation, state companies will retain ownership of up to a third of the company while foreign investors will be allowed up to 30 per cent of the public subscription.

Lukasiewicz said Universal wanted to become a joint stock company with a capital of 150 billion zloties (\$16 billion).

In 1989, its capital was only 859 million zloties (\$91,700) while its turnover was 638 billion zloties (\$68.1 billion), making it one of Poland's three biggest foreign trade companies.

The shares, whose face value is 10,000 zloties (\$1.06) each, are offered for 20,000 zloties (\$2.12) and Lukasiewicz said the excess money would form a reserve capital to be used for buying up Polish companies that go bankrupt.

Many bankruptcies are expected under the government's austerity measures to reform the economy.

A key element of the changes is a privatisation bill, currently before Parliament, which is expected to lead eventually to the sale of most Polish state enterprises.

The order was contained in a set of government measures announced by Deputy Prime Minister Lee Seung-Yun to fight real estate speculation and inflation, aimed at invigorating the country's sagging economy.

Lee, who announced the measures in a joint news conference with five other cabinet ministers, said that those businesses which refuse to comply with the government orders will face punitive taxes and a cutoff in fresh bank loans.

Yesterday President Roh Tae-woo said in a televised speech the government was determined to force big businesses to sell their real estate.

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Barring down from the other direction are over-leveraged companies groaning under the weight of junk-bond debt.

"US banks will have difficulty competing in this new environment in Europe except in products for which they have developed technological and marketing expertise at home," said the association report. "They will be less effective competitors for products such as insurance and securities for which they cannot develop expertise in the domestic market."

Around the globe, huge Japanese banks with deep pools of capital could become more agile as well once their national banking code is revised to allow more direct involvement in securities. Penetration of the US market, directly or through acquisitions, is seen as yet another menace.

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Ultimate luxury

Workers at Carriaga House Motors in New York polish the ultimate in luxury cars (left), the Rolls Royce Silver Spur 11. Only 25 of these cars, priced at \$175,000 each, will be built for the American market. The car's amenities include a



refrigerator designed to hold two champagne bottles, rare walnut wood and silver fittings, and a ten-speaker remote-controlled entertainment system. At night, champagne is being served from the car's refrigerator. (Reuters wirephoto)

American work-rate continues to dawdle

WASHINGTON, May 8. (AP): American workers productivity continued to lag in the first three months of 1990, posting its worst performance in a year, the government said yesterday.

"It's a reminder of what we already knew — that the economy isn't doing too well," said David Wyss, an economist at DRI-McGraw Hill Inc. Research firm in Lexington, Massachusetts.

Non-farm productivity — defined as output per hour of work — declined by 1 per cent, the biggest drop since productivity fell by an annual rate of 1.3 per cent for the January-March period last year.

During all of last year, productivity rose just 0.9 per cent, the poorest showing since the 1981-82 recession.

Increasing productivity is considered basic to boosting living standards because it allows businesses to pay workers more as their output rises without risking higher inflation.

Irwin Kellner, chief economist at manufacturers Hanover Trust, a major New York bank, said productivity sometimes plunges in a quarter because of statistical quirks, but the nation's continuing anemic productivity pace is distressing.

"In the long term, we should be very concerned because we're not being efficient enough to increase our living standard. It's also making it difficult to compete with other countries," Kellner said.

Meanwhile, unit labour costs, a key gauge of future price inflation, rose a sharp 4.9 per cent so far this year, the report said, compared with a 4.5 per cent increase during all of 1989.

"It suggests a rock-hard underlying inflation rate of 4.5 to 5 per cent," economist Allen Sinai said of the increase in unit labour costs. "It's not likely to get much better anything soon without the economy getting more productivity."

However, Sinai, chief economist at the Boston Co. financial firm, noted that hourly labour costs — a major inflation measure for businesses — rose at an annual rate of 3.9 per cent in the first quarter of 1990.

He called the 3.9 per cent rise a bright spot, noting those costs increased by 5.5 per cent for all of 1989.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Iraq, Turkey sign accord: An accord signed in Baghdad at the weekend between Iraq and Turkey, is expected to promote bilateral trade and economic, technical and scientific co-operation. Signed at the end of the three-day official visit here by Turkish Prime Minister Yildirim Akbulut, the agreement stipulates an increase in and diversification of trade exchanges between the two countries, with Turkey extending credit facilities to finance Iraqi imports from Ankara as well as providing help for projects in the Arab state. (OPECNA)

Gulf Air orders engines: Gulf Air, the airline of four GCC countries, has ordered CFM International Jet engines worth \$225 million to power Airbus Industrie A320 jetliners, the engine maker said Monday.

CFM said the CFM56-5 engines would power 12 firm and six option Airbus jetliners. Delivery is to begin in 1992 and continue through 1994.

Gulf Air, owned by Bahrain, Oman, Qatar and Abu Dhabi, plans to use the Airbus jetliners to expand its fleet of short-to medium-range aircraft and to replace aging Boeing 737-300s, CFM said. (AP)

Iran opens new production line: A new production line opened on Monday at Iran aluminium factory, raising annual output to 70,000 tonnes, Iranian television reported.

Mines and Metal Minister Mohammad Hossein Mahloujehi said on television that the nearly 30 per cent increase in output at the plant in the central city of Arak would help curb the rise in aluminium prices in Iran. (Reuters)

Iranian ports repairs under way: The repair, reconstruction and renovation of three strategic Iranian ports is under way in the provincial cities of Khorramshahr, Ahadad and Bandar Khomeini, it has been reported in Ahwaz, Khuzestan province.

The government has approved a budget of \$35.7 million for the projects 22.8 million of which will be spent on the reconstruction of Khorramshahr and Ahadad ports with the remainder earmarked for the Khomeini Port. (OPECNA)

Soviets grain farmers paid: The Soviet government Monday doubled the price paid to grain farmers in hopes of stimulating this year's harvest, at the risk of a substantial increase in its budget deficit.

The price paid for top-quality soft grain will rise from 260 rubles to 500 rubles per tonne under Monday's order from the council of ministers. Tass reported. The price paid of other grains will rise by 30 per cent to nearly 100 per cent.

But while farmers will be paid more to produce animal feed, they will not be asked to pay higher prices for the feed they buy, the announcement said. (AP)

Ethiopia offers tax breaks: Ethiopia, seeking to liberalise its socialist economy, has issued a

Compromised budget

No preconditions

WASHINGTON, May 8. (AP): President George Bush has agreed with congressional leaders to set "no preconditions" on their effort to negotiate a bipartisan budget compromise, the White House said yesterday.

White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater said the talks will be "unfettered" by stances held in the past, including Bush's longstanding insistence that there be no new taxes.

He said that new efforts to forge a compromise were motivated in part by "anxiety over a deficit that is fighting every reduction attempt that we can come up with."

"The participants agreed on two or three kind of basic operating principles. One would be that there are no preconditions, that anyone can bring up an issue for discussion and debate," Fitzwater told reporters.

Asked whether Bush was abandoning his refusal to consider raising taxes, Fitzwater replied "The tax matter was not discussed in the meeting yesterday. The president's prevalence and philosophy on this issue is quite well known."

"But what they did agree to last night was that they would not get involved in discussions about taxation or specific issues, but rather would stick to the phrase of 'no preconditions' and begin an open debate that is unfettered with conclusions about positions taken in the past," he said.

decree opening up the key sectors of agriculture, industry and foreign trade to private investment.

In Sunday's decree the government offered tax breaks of up to five years for those willing to invest in Ethiopia's economy.

The official Ethiopian News Agency (ENA) said start-up materials for new projects would be exempt from import duty. (Reuters)

Greyhound strike still on: Greyhound chairman Fred Curry declared victory Monday in the 2-month-old bus drivers' strike, but the union said the bitter walkout against the country's biggest long-distance bus company was by no means over.

"We are no longer driver-inhibited," Curry told reporters at a new conference called by the company at its Dallas headquarters. The statement came a day after the company proposed a four-year wage freeze and in elimination of 4,500 union jobs, a proposal the union called an "insult." (AP)

Gaming ventures in USSR: A Nevada company has signed an agreement with the Soviet government to operate four small casinos in Russia, a company official said.

Officials hope to open the first casino along the Black Sea in less than two months, according to Simon Furman, general manager for Unikop.

Unikop will spend about \$1 million to open the four casinos in existing hotels, he said. (AP)

American banks under pressure want new federal rules

NEW YORK, May 8. (UPI): America's bankers want a new deal.

Governed since 1933 by federal legislation separating commercial banks, which take deposits and make loans, and investment banks, which underwrite and sell securities, US bankers contend they will be seriously handicapped in fierce global competition unless the rules are rewritten.

The focal point of debate is the Banking Act of 1933, more commonly known as the Glass-Steagall Act for its congressional sponsors, drafted in response to abuses that contributed to the 1929 stock market crash.

Historians debate whether Glass-Steagall was a panacea for banking problems or simply a way to punish Wall Street by breaking up financial empires such as the J.P. Morgan & Co. banking concern. But a consensus seems to be emerging that it is time to seriously rethink US banking law.

Even E. Gerald Corrigan, president of the New York Federal Reserve Bank — one of the country's leading watchdogs on financial system stability — told the Senate

this month there is a "need to promptly enact broad-based legislation that would reform and modernise" financial structures.

Fed spokesman Joseph Coyne said the US central bank believes Glass-Steagall should go. "We have asked for Congress to repeal it," Coyne said. "There's a lot of sentiment in the Congress to support that."

Resistance from the securities and insurance industries, initially stiff, has tempered considerably, said Daniel McDermott, legislative counsel for the financial services council. He said the group's members represent most of the industries with a stake in the legislation.

While there's no consensus on the shape of financial modernisation legislation, "turf-based opposition" has given way to the view that US code should reflect the modern world, McDermott said. And most of the industries concerned have a stake in enhancing US global competitiveness.

Nonetheless, the most vigorous proponents of Glass-Steagall revision are the commercial banks, who say the financial services revolution obliges them to diversify into

other activities. They also want to lift barriers to branching out across state lines — so-called interstate banking.

Bankers argue that tight restriction of US institutions weakens them in the face of stiffening international competition from Japanese megabanks and European contenders forging new alliances. Even at home, they say, US banks often give foreign banks competitive advantages.

"If American banks become less important suppliers of financial services, more and more financial business will be conducted by foreign institutions in overseas markets," argued an American Bankers Association report on global competitiveness, warning of lost economic benefits.

It perceived a big threat to traditional US banking leadership in the 1992 economic unification programme of the European Economic Community.

European banks by 1992 will operate under a community-wide code providing for so-called universal banking, which combines the features of commercial and investment banking with, often, insurance business as well. Mergers and joint ventures will create major new global competitors.

"US banks will have difficulty competing in this new environment in Europe except in products for which they have developed technological and marketing expertise at home," said the association report. "They will be less effective competitors for products such as insurance and securities for which they cannot develop expertise in the domestic market."

Around the globe, huge Japanese banks with deep pools of capital could become more agile as well once their national banking code is revised to allow more direct involvement in securities. Penetration of the US market, directly or through acquisitions, is seen as yet another menace.

These are not, for US bankers, the best of times. Just as they picked themselves up, dusted off their pin-striped and limped away from the Third World lending catastrophe of the 1980s, they were sidetracked by troubled domestic real estate loans.

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Energy file

30,000 Indian oil officials on strike

NEW DELHI, May 8. (Reuters): More than 30,000 senior employees in India's state oil industry defied a government ban and went on strike for higher pay today, officials said.

Indian Airlines, the main domestic carrier, said a large number of flights had been cancelled because of a lack of aviation fuel.

Only nine of the 29 scheduled flights from Bombay would leave today, airline officials said. International flights could also be affected as many foreign carriers refuelled in Bombay.

An Indian Oil Corporation official said the one-day strike would not have much impact on production. "The strike is only a token protest and production losses could be easily made up," he said.

The government today banned strikes in the oil sector, declaring it an essential service.

Senior industry employees, including managers and engineers, called off a proposed three-day strike last month after talks with the government.

In Bombay, a spokesman for the Oil Sector Officers Association said the government had appealed for the strike to be cancelled but the appeal came too late to tell members to call it off.

Denial

Shares in oil-drilling companies soared by up to eight per cent on the Israeli stock exchange yesterday on rumours, quickly denied, that an offshore drilling project close to Tel Aviv might strike oil.

Danny Toledano, an official of Isramco Israel Inc, the drilling company, denied the report published in Israel's mass circulation daily Yedioth Ahronoth.

He said his firm had simply decided to make a commercial feasibility test on possible gas production.

"We did get a positive result from the drilling, but it has only marginal significance on the prospects of finding oil," he told Reuters.

Boost

Venezuela may consider raising oil production by up to one million barrels per day to supply a new strategic reserve for the Western Hemisphere, Energy Minister Celestino Armas said.

Armas told a news conference the idea of a strategic reserve, to be drawn on in emergencies by the countries in the hemisphere, was raised by President Carlos Andres Perez on a recent visit to Washington.

"President Perez raised the possibility of developing what would be called a strategic hemisphere potential," Armas said.

Armas did not say how long it would take Venezuela to raise its capacity enough to accommodate such an increase in production.

Contract

The French oil company, Elf Aquitaine, is due to start offshore drilling work in Qatar in September this year, according to the counsellor of the local French embassy, Jean Paul Irmann.

The exploration and production-sharing contract was signed in January 1989 covering "Area No. 6" in Qatar's continental shelf.

Irmann, who was talking to the "Gulf Times" newspaper, said as part of the contract, the French company would also lift 30,000 bpd of crude from Qatar.

Meanwhile, another French company, Alcatel, is expected to start work "very soon" on the supply and installation of a \$3.6 million, 10,000-line public telephone exchange in the country.

Low trading

Crude oil prices closed higher after a late rally yesterday on the New York Mercantile Exchange, but trading volume remained low in the absence of any major developments.

The brief rally also helped push product prices up on the Merc.

The Merc's slow activity also reflected the closing of the London markets, which were observing a banking holiday. Only about 50,000 crude oil contracts were traded on the Merc, against a normal daily volume of about 75,000 contracts.

The benchmark West Texas Intermediate crude for June delivery gained 29 cents to settle at \$18.27 a barrel. WTI prices declined sharply last week in response to a less-than-expected production cutback announced by the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries.

Unleaded gasoline for light delivery, which rose sharply last week on rumours of problems at refineries of some of the major US companies, added another 0.74 cent to 61.86 cents a gallon.

EVENTS



From the land of many splendours

THE Oriya Samaj in Kuwait has finally arrived. Two days after Ranjana Gauhar presented the enchanting Odissi dance at the recently concluded India Festival, the artists of the Oriya Samaj presented a lifting Oriya song and a rhythmic dance number at the festival. It seemed too good to be true. The mix of song and dance experiences gave fresh perception to Oriya's variety and beauty. The song, directed by Vijayalakshmi Nayak depicted the theme of gallant Oriya traders sailing overseas against heavy odds, while the dance number, competently choreographed by Sabhiya Nawaz, exhibited the enchanting rural scene after the harvest. M. P. Deibehra, Dr. Nabeen G. Nayak and Dr. Dipika Mohanty supervised the cultural programme of the Oriya Samaj at the IAC auditorium on the 27th April. The mouth-watering Oriya dishes were also on display in one of the food stalls at the festival venue. Those who participated in the chorus song (picture down) were Girija Dalbhera and Rashmi Bala Das. Those who participated in the chorus song (picture down) were Girija Dalbhera and Rashmi Bala Das. The top picture shows a scene from the dance programme.

Indian Video Roundup

An ideal home couldn't be better

By Fathima Ahmed
Arab Times Staff

Ghar (home). The word evokes images of an ideal home — companionship, harmony and above all smiles pasted on everyone's lips. On celluloid, the ideal is arrived after filling buckets of tears (of the daughter-in-law, of course) and your psyche takes a bashing.

Any title with *Ghar* almost always implies a family drama. Now, there is Nadiadwala's *Ghar Ho To Aisa*, which roughly falls into the category that focusses on the monstrous mother-in-law's inhumane attitude toward her docile daughter-in-law. Its rather an unequal fight with the bullish ma-in-law bashing up a frail bull-fighter.

In the '60s and '70s, Lalita Pawar, with a twitching eye and a booming voice, intimidated all and sundry in family sagas. In the '90s, it seems the mantle has fallen on Bindu, a nne time glamour gal, who has been nudged from her vampish roles by the more glamorous pussy cats who call themselves stars.

In *Ghar Ho To Aisa*, Bindu gets the honours of beating up a bewildered Deepthi Naval, who can never do anything right. Its like "the boss is always right even if I am wrong." Of course, there is the final reformation, reconciliation — but not before an angry young woman turns the tables.

In this film, she is played by Meenakshi Seshadri, a fiery feminist who hates men and runs a social welfare centre for women harassed by their husbands. She even plots a marriage of convenience to appease her father but succumbs to protagonist Anil Kapoor's charms. Too proud to admit she has fallen in love, she prefers to play the "role" of wife.

Kalpitaru's direction, aided by a "clean" script makes this home affairs tale a cut above the average *Ghar* movies. Striking a balance between the tragicomic two tales of the harassed daughter-in-law (Deepthi Naval) and the live-in son-in-law, played by Kader Khan, *Ghar* floats above sentimental waters.

Some may even like Kader Khan's toogoo-in-cheek performance amusing. His alter ego rebels and his cowardice holds him back. As the caricatured son-in-law, he resists the temptation to indulge in innuendos. This is a step forward for the

Khan. Anil Kapoor is in a light-hearted mood after the blood and gore of films like *Parinda*, *Ram Lakhan* and others. He wants us to know he has a flair for comedy as well. Fine. His comic capers are confined to rolling his eyes once too often.

After shallow characterisations and superficial situations in recent movies, one does feel nice about certain values that the *Ghar* characters portray. This is certainly not true of Bappi Lahiri's ear splitting music, and choreography. Even after stretching one's imagination to breaking point, one can't swallow the principals — Meenakshi and Anil disco dancing to the beat of pop sounds for a qawalli sequence?

Talk of awkward scenes and M.P. Jain's *Naaka Bandi* springs to mind. Director Shibu Mitra's vision of entertainment vacillates between flailing arms and twirling hips. Things like a storyline, dialogue, characterisation and romance are incidental and forcibly patched onto the fabric of what is called *Naaka Bandi*.

The paucity of ideas is such

that they even resort to linking film titles to write dialogue. Clever? Perhaps. Novel, no. That's entertainment for you! And if Sri Devi is delivering those lines, you'll lap it up — lock, stock and barrel. "Naughty Girl" Sri seduces you with her oh-so-naughty looks (reserved for men). Romancing the lascivious Sri is laconic Dharmendra, real but stuffy if you consider he is supposed to be a tough trucker.

To offset the generation gap, you have Chunky Pandey and Sonam falling all over each other. One actor who rises above the mundane is Anupam Kher. As Karamchand, a policeman with a perpetual cold and a sneeze, he stands out as a true entertainer. In a brief cameo, he has you in stitches while interviewing a prospective groom for his daughter.

In a word, the theme revolves around "revenge." And guess who triumphs — certainly not the bad guys, played by Sadashiv Amrapurkar and Amrish Puri. The above films are by courtesy of Athari Video, Main St., Farwaniya; and Canary Video, Fisheries Bldg., Sharq.



Sri Devi



Sonam



Anil Kapoor and Meenakshi

WHAT'S ON

ARTS

Gallery Dahiyat
Abdullah Al Salem
THE Sixth Arab Children's art show will be held at the Dahiyat Abdullah Al Salem Gallery, near Fatima Mosque, from May 12 to 21. The paintings and drawings of children from several Arab and Gulf countries will be on show. It will be open from 9 am to 12 noon and 5 to 7 pm, except weekends.

SOCIAL

ACT
ACT's production of "Voyages", an evening of words and music about travel, will be presented one night only at the Mousetrap Theatre, New English School on Thursday, May 10, 1990. This readers theatre presentation includes selections of humorous and inspiring poetry and prose by contemporary and classical authors. 3KD admission includes light buffet. Call 5620332, 4-8 pm for reservations. Tickets are also available at the door.

Tamil drama
IAC presents a hilarious Tamil comedy by "Enthusiasts", after their last year's roaring success of *Ummaye Umi Vilai Enna*. Programme is at IAC hall on May 25, 1990 at 7.00 pm.

Hyderabad Mushaira
THE committee for celebrations of four centuries of Hyderabad Deccan, is going to hold a grand Mushaira, on Thursday, May 17, 1990 at 8.00 pm at Carlton Tower Hotel, Faded Al Salem Street. Guest poets from Hyderabad will participate in it along with prominent local poets. A limited number of seats left. Reserve your seat now to avoid disappointment. For passes and more details call Khabish Hyderabad, on 4735591 ext. 34 (between 7 am - 12.30 pm).

Daniella Dhow Trip
FOR reasons beyond the control of the Daniella Club, the Dhow trip for Dances has been postponed till Friday, May 18, at 10 am.

Indian Arts Circle

HERE'S good news for lovers of one-act plays. A wide variety of one-act plays to reach as wide an audience as possible is going to be staged from 17th to 31st May 1990 at the IAC auditorium for the 2nd IAC One Act Play Competition. After the roaring success of the 1st One Act Play Competition, 16 teams are planning to perform plays in languages ranging from Malayalam to Marathi. The inaugural offering is a Konkani play at 8 pm on the 17th May. Watch out for further information in this column.

Painting exhibition

A PAINTING exhibition titled, *Around the World*, will be held at Kuwait International Hotel from May 8-16 by Mrs. Luz Marina Cullwell, an American citizen born in Colombia, South America. The exhibition will show subjects from different countries as well as a special section on Kuwait. It includes cityscapes, desertscapes, landscapes and Islamic designs. Tel.: 2530000.

Austrian festival

THE Kuwait International Hotel presents:
Viennese Opera Ball Orchestra (May 11): Having played across the world from New York to Berlin and Moscow, they will now present typical Viennese style of music in Kuwait. Conducted by Robert Pawlicki one of the leading chefs d'orchestra in Austria since a quarter of a century.

Viennese Opera Ball (May 12): Will present the traditional highlight of Vienna's social life... a night of the world, a night only Austria can create, a feat of never ending charm. The ancient stepping dance, Polonaise, will inaugurate the evening.

Folkloric band (May 13): From the high mountains of Austria the group, Laimersalm, will present a rich repertoire. They have been performing since the last three generations. Cuisine from the City of Music (May 11-16): Throughout the week, La Palma will present unique creations from the fabled "City of Music" with live entertainment. Tickets at: 2530000/2533000.

British Council

FEATURE FILM: *After Pilkington*, Saturday May 12 and Sunday, May 13 at 6.30 pm.

This was the prize Italia Drama Award in 1987. With a skillfully drawn framework of black comedy, the situation is deadly. Bob Peck, Miranda Richardson and Barry Forster render outstanding performance making more memorable the witty dialogue of Simon Gray's original screenplay.

CHILDREN'S FILM:
Teddy Ruxpin, a rainbow of many colours, Wednesday, May 16 at 6.00 pm and Thursday, May 17 at 10.30 am.

Hurry! Don't miss Teddy and his friends escaping from a giant runaway strawberry and making a daring journey in Rainbow Falls.

Please book seats by calling Tel. Nos: 2515512, 2533204 and 2533227.

HOTELS

Kuwait Sheraton
RICCARDO Restaurant: The Riccardo restaurant with its famous Italian cuisine will be

open for lunch and live entertainment with "Franco and Regina" every night.

Hunt Room: The famous Hunt Room restaurant offers some of the best meat and fish preparation for lunch and dinner with live entertainment nightly.

Le Tarbouche: Open for lunch and dinner. Le Tarbouche offers a wide selection of hot and cold buffet dishes for families and friends.

Al Hambra: Enjoy the Arabian Night theme at the Al Hambra with delicious Arabic dishes, buffet style, nightly entertainment by Gili Amici and singer Maha.

SPORTS

Quli Qutub Shah Memorial - Cricket

THE sports committee for celebrations of 400-year anniversary of Hyderabad (Deccan) will organise the Quli Qutub Shah Memorial cricket tournament. All the participating players are requested in report for practice and matches on the dates specified below:

Schedule: May 9, 1990 —

3.00 pm, practice at Juleeb Al Shuyookh ground; May 11, 7.30 am, first round matches at Salmiya grounds; May 18, 8.00 am, finals at Juleeb Al Shuyookh ground.

Windsurfing
ALL are welcome to the Messiah Beach Hotel open windsurfing event on Friday, May 25, 1990.

Prizes for experienced, novice and lady windsurfers. Entry fee is KD3. Maximum sail size 7.5 square metres. For further information please call 5624111 ext. 739.

Kuwait 4th Annual Raft Race
MAY 11, 1990 starting at 9.00 am. Don't forget this Kuwait's most awaited, spectacular, water sports event of the year at Messiah Beach Hotel. Tickets are on sale in the hotel at the main entrance on the day. Just bring your family and friends for a day out. Keep a look out in the papers for our advertising for full details or contact us on 5624111 ext 711/712/739/751.

Kuwait Rugby
Thursday, May 17: 3rd Annual Fun-Run.

Thursday June 6, Oval Ball. If you would like details, information on any of these please contact S. Hill 5391720, G. Adams 5644533, R. Huxton 5658435.

CINEMA

Al Andulus
Arabic film
Al Salmiyah
Hall Booked
Al Hambra
Time Burst
Drive-in
Arabic film
Al Firdous
Kala Bazaar
Fahad Open
Gharana
Fahad Open
Arabic film
Al Jahra
Spitz
Granada
Arabic film
Salamkhat
Italian Boys
Jash
Malone
Ahmadi Drive-in
Arabic film

TELEVISION PROGRAMMES

KTV 1

9.30 Opening announcement and Holy Quran
9.45 Cartoons
10.15 Magazine D'Actualite (repetition)
10.30 Daily Arabic serial
11.15 Weekly serial: Soniyah
12.30 News in brief and closedown

Evening

4.00 Opening with the Holy Quran
4.15 World Today via Satellite (repetition)
4.30 Cartoon serial
5.00 Cultural programme
6.00 Historical serial: Muslim judges
7.00 Songs
7.15 Housing programme
7.50 Islamic arts in Yemen
8.30 Good Evening
9.00 News in Arabic
9.45 Local programme: Shabakat Al Telfizyouo
10.15 Daily Arabic serial: Layali Al Helmya
11.00 Arabic film: Hub Fi Al

Thalam. Starring: Fatim Hamama, Emad Hamdi

1.00 News in brief
1.05 World Today via Satellite and closedown

KTV 2

6.00 Opening announcement and Holy Quran
6.10 Mickey and Donald. A cartoon series for children
6.30 Hotshotz. The female professor attempts to run away. Kristy presents a racing car to Steve to use in the race.
7.00 Beyond 2000. A new tyre for Ferrari. A car with a speed of 300 km. Attempts to solve shorting problem... Stealth the American craft out detected by any Radar and the Russian Meg 37.
8.00 News in English
8.30 The Science Edition. Heart surgery...

artificial hearts and industrial pollution... Gold fever and technology of gold mining. Booker. Bonker is in find a main witness for the prosecutor or the company will loose on million dollar.
10.00 Cine Club. Presented by Farouk Abdulaziz Dr Strange Love. An American airbase leader orders his squadron to attack a Russian secret factory. The American President phones Russian counterpart to attack the American squadron before it is too late!
12.00 News in brief
12.10 Magazine D'Actualite

PRAYERS

Fajr 3:32
Zuhr 11:44
Asr 3:20
Maghreb 6:29
Isha 7:54



نادي المغتربين - الكويت
Expatriates Club - Kuwait

is pleased to announce their patrons & well-wishers

The arrival of **Roseferns** THE KING OF CENTURIES with his 15 member troupe to stage his premiere show **Kixxe** on Thursday, May 10, at 7 pm and repeat show on Friday, May 11, at 4 pm and century-nearing **Beiman Yumi** on Friday, May 11 at 11.30 am at **GRANADA CINEMA, KHAITAN**.

Tickets available at Raja Store - 2412970, Canary Video - 2459521, Alex Martin Shop 34, Tony - 5655056, Wilson - 3726038, Val - 5614506 & at the Granada Cinema on day of show.

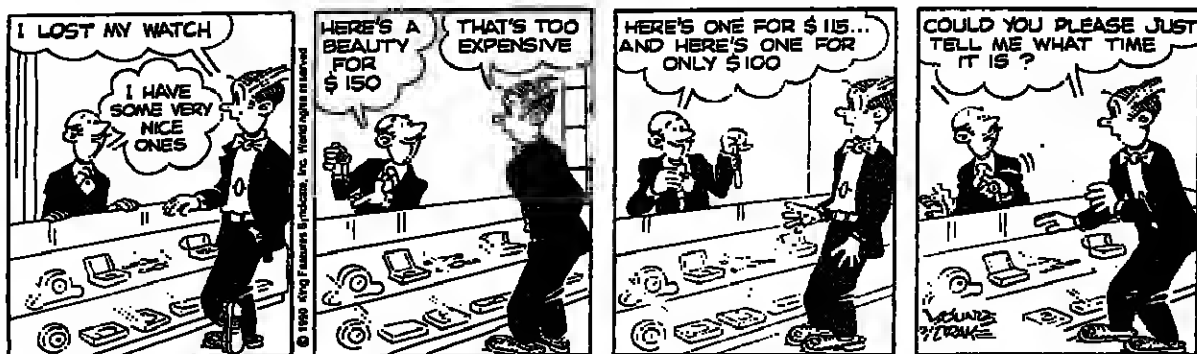
Space courtesy of **Gulf Engineering Company w.l.l** TEL: 4841322

Stage set up courtesy of **Kashmir Art Gift Center** TEL: 5735475

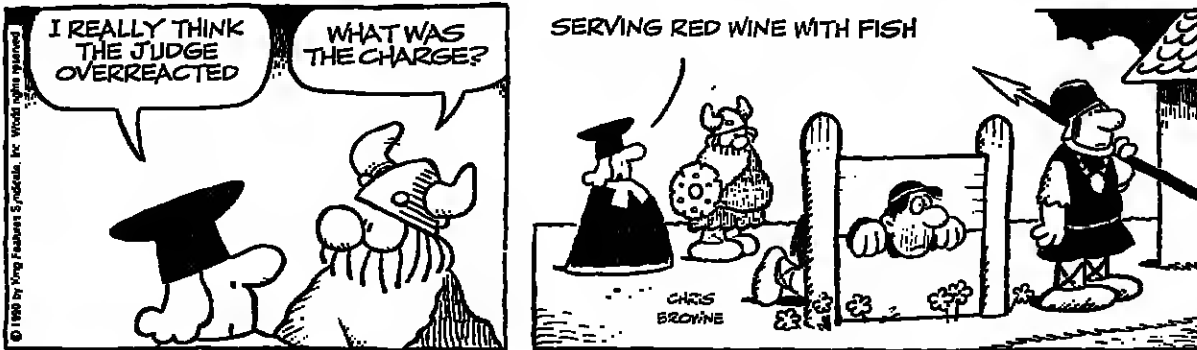
Sound system courtesy of **MY TOY CO.** TEL: 5638436

Special lighting system courtesy of **GULF STAR TRADING EST.** TEL: 2435977

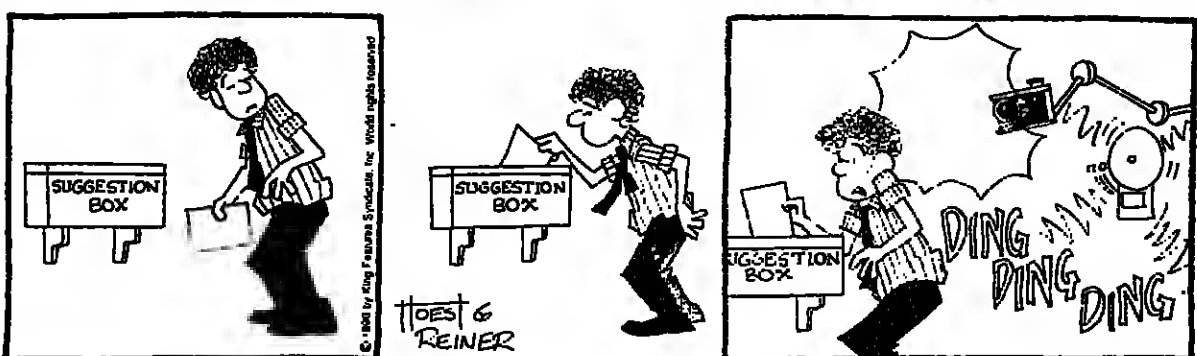
BLONDIE — By Dean Young & Stan Drake



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE — By Dik Browne



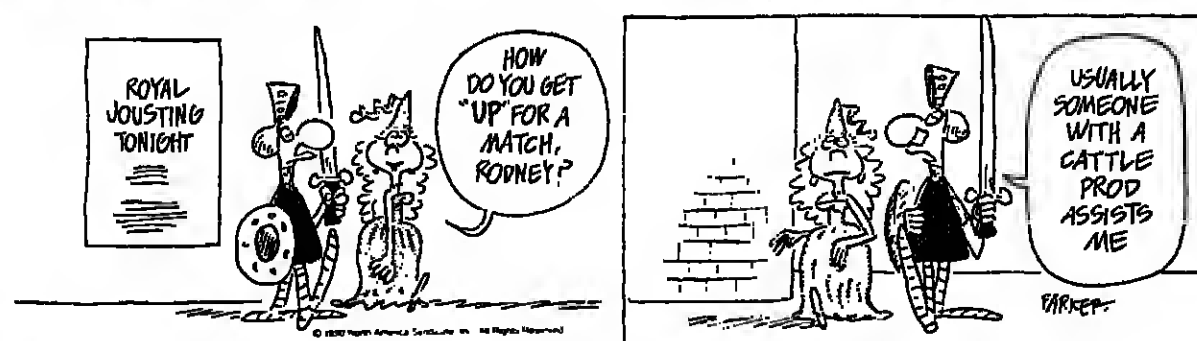
AGATHA CRUM — By Bill Hoest



BEETLE BAILEY — By Mont Walker



THE WIZARD OF ID — By Brant Parker & Johnny Hart



ANDY CAPP



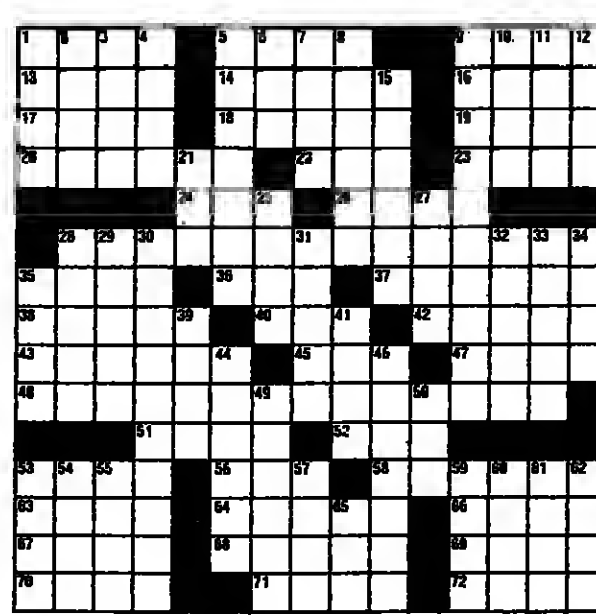
B.C. — By Johnny Hart



HE-MAN — By G. Forton & J. Shull



TODAY'S CROSSWORD



- ACROSS**
- Source of rose
 - A way up
 - Gold cloth
 - Knight of the road
 - Persian sprites
 - Eager
 - Asian native ruler
 - Listing
 - Bingo's relative
 - Judged
 - Something to lend
 - Piccadilly statue
 - Entertainer
 - Zadora
 - Thin covering
 - Glenn Miller
 - Naked
 - Obtain
 - Type of car
 - Drew out
 - Disconsolate
 - Military chaplain
 - Pottery
 - Fragments: Var.
 - Thing in law
 - Gardener's bane
 - Glenn Miller connection
 - Berne's river
 - Old salt
 - Latin word
 - Safer's hair, for short
 - Matinee idol
 - Power
 - Skirt style
 - Mystery writer
 - Rex
 - Scope
 - Within: Comb. form
 - Taut
 - Tangy
 - Observed
- DOWN**
- Relise
 - Conclusions
 - Shanty
 - Southfork, to a EWING
 - Irish Rose's lover
 - Quad edifices
 - Gardening activity
 - Asian holiday
 - One of HOMES
 - Rice dish: Var.
 - Zarnbezi River
 - Ripener
 - Single: Comb. form
 - Personalities
 - Demodes
 - Final
 - Generations
 - Do a job
 - Hindu holy man
 - Movie actor
 - Ernest —
 - Part of R and R
 - Hokkaido
 - Island port
 - Entertainment, western style
 - Screen star
 - Prune, Scottish style
 - Outdo
 - Norse sage
 - Small depression
 - Most tender
 - Strew
 - Court buffoon
 - Attempt
 - Iowa college town
 - Ore source
 - Poker term
 - Corn cake
 - Velocity
 - Algerian seaport
 - Insignificant one
 - Consumes
 - "Born in the —"

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

LOCIT ALPS OPENS
EBAN REAL VIREO
NORTH CAROLINIAN
TEPEE DEPENDENTS
NRA BET
PLUTOCRATS RASP
EON ITALO PENTAL
RIPEN BIO REGAL
ARISE BATHE EKE
KENT DISHEVELED
ROJ MIA
ALBATROSS ERAISE
PAINT THE DOWNRED
SINGE MEOW EGAD
EDGER SPAN DORY

GOREN BRIDGE

GENTLEMEN, THE LADIES

Both vulnerable. West deals.

NORTH
♠ K 7 3
♥ A 2
♦ A 9 7 6
♣ A K 9 6

WEST
♠ Q 9 8 6
♥ Q J 8 7
♦ K
♣ Q J 4 3

EAST
♠ J
♥ K 6
♦ Q J 8 4 2
♣ 10 8 7 5 2

SOUTH
♠ A 10 5 4 2
♥ 10 9 5 4 3
♦ 10 5 3
♣ Void

The bidding:

West North East South
Pass 1 ♦ Pass 1 ♠
Pass 2 NT Pass 4 ♥
Pass 4 ♣ Pass 4 ♣

Opening lead: Queen of ♠

From time to time, the writers of this column have been accused of being male chauvinists. While that might hold true of our belief that the best players are men, let us assure you that there are no more ardent admirers of the fair sex than we. This hand was played by a young Israeli, Ilana Barnes, in the

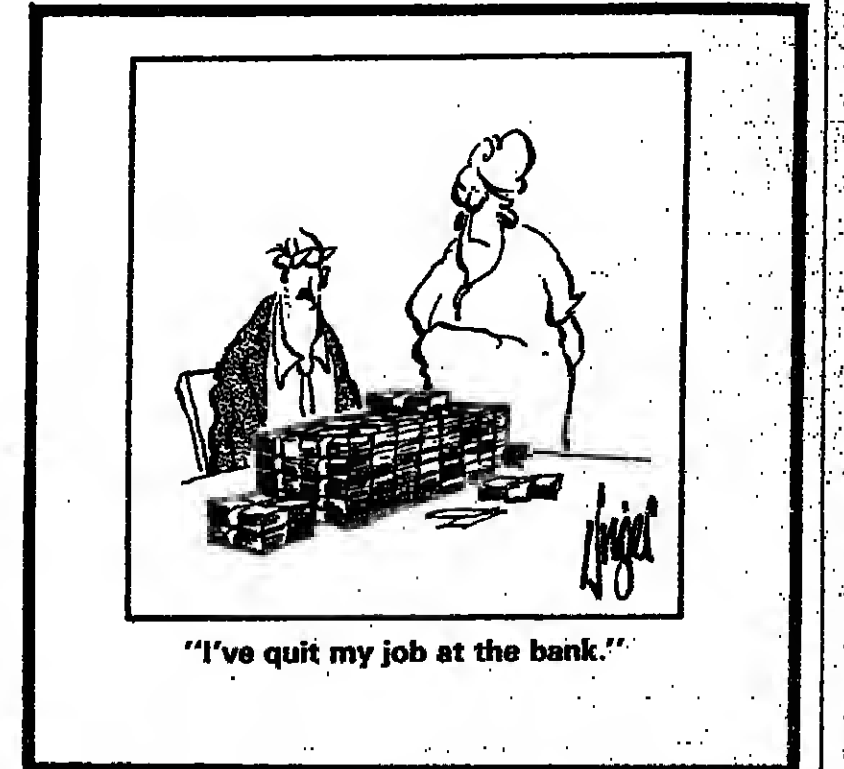
Women's Pairs at the 1989 European Championship.

North-South were using a 15-17 range for their opening no trumps. South's jump to four hearts denied interest in anything beyond game.

Declarer woo the opening club lead in dummy, discarding a diamond from hand. The ace of hearts was cashed, followed by a low heart to East's king. Another diamond was stuffed on the club return, and when the king of spades was cashed, East dropped a tell-tale jack.

A club ruff in hand and a heart ruff in dummy were followed by the ace of diamonds and another club ruff. A second heart ruff reduced West to nothing but trumps, while there were three diamonds on the board and declarer was down to A 10 of trumps and 10 of hearts.

Declarer led a diamond from dummy and discarded the winning heart from hand. With nothing but trumps, West was forced to ruff and return a trump into declarer's tenace. As a result, South romped home with 11 tricks on a hand where many were going down at four spades because they drew two rounds of trumps too early.



YOUR STARS



Aries
March 21 - April 20
Something you are learning will take longer than you thought but you should persevere. You are liable to be short-tempered and should do your best to restrain yourself. Listen to what others are saying. Be sincere.



Cancer
June 21 - July 20
You will be able to do something very much to your liking. Make sure your partner is taken into your confidence. Do not interfere in what does not concern you. Be tactful.



Libra
Sept. 23 - Oct. 23
You should not allow your eyes to be bigger than your financial capacity. And if you try to keep up with some well to do neighbors you could well come to grief. Show a little more concern for others. Be generous.



Capricorn
Dec. 21 - Jan. 19
You should beware of spending more than you can really afford however much of a 'bargain' you might be tempted to buy. You should think hard and long before deciding to go ahead with what you have in mind. Be resilient.



Taurus
April 21 - May 20
Avoid extravagance but do not be mean either. You will be able to make an important decision about a matter that has been troubling you. And once you have made it do not delay. Be reasonable.



Leo
July 21 - Aug. 23
You will be able to do something you had long wanted to do but it will prove something of a disappointment. You should think a little more constructively. Take your mind off gloomy thoughts and look on the bright side. Be fair.



Scorpio
Oct. 23 - Nov. 23
You will tend to find offense where none was meant and should try not to do so. Your lucky numbers are 17 and 34. Something that has been puzzling you will now become much clearer. Do take better care of your health. Be respectful.



Aquarius
Jan. 20 - Feb. 19
You will be able to solve a mystery, but you should avoid guesswork and jumping to conclusions. Make sure you do not eat too many sweet or starchy foods. Think once again before you make up your mind. Be amenable.



Gemini
May 21 - June 20
You should not try to do many things all at once. You will tend to be forgetful so do not spurn aside de-memoires. Something you have been trying to learn will now fall into place. Be tidy.



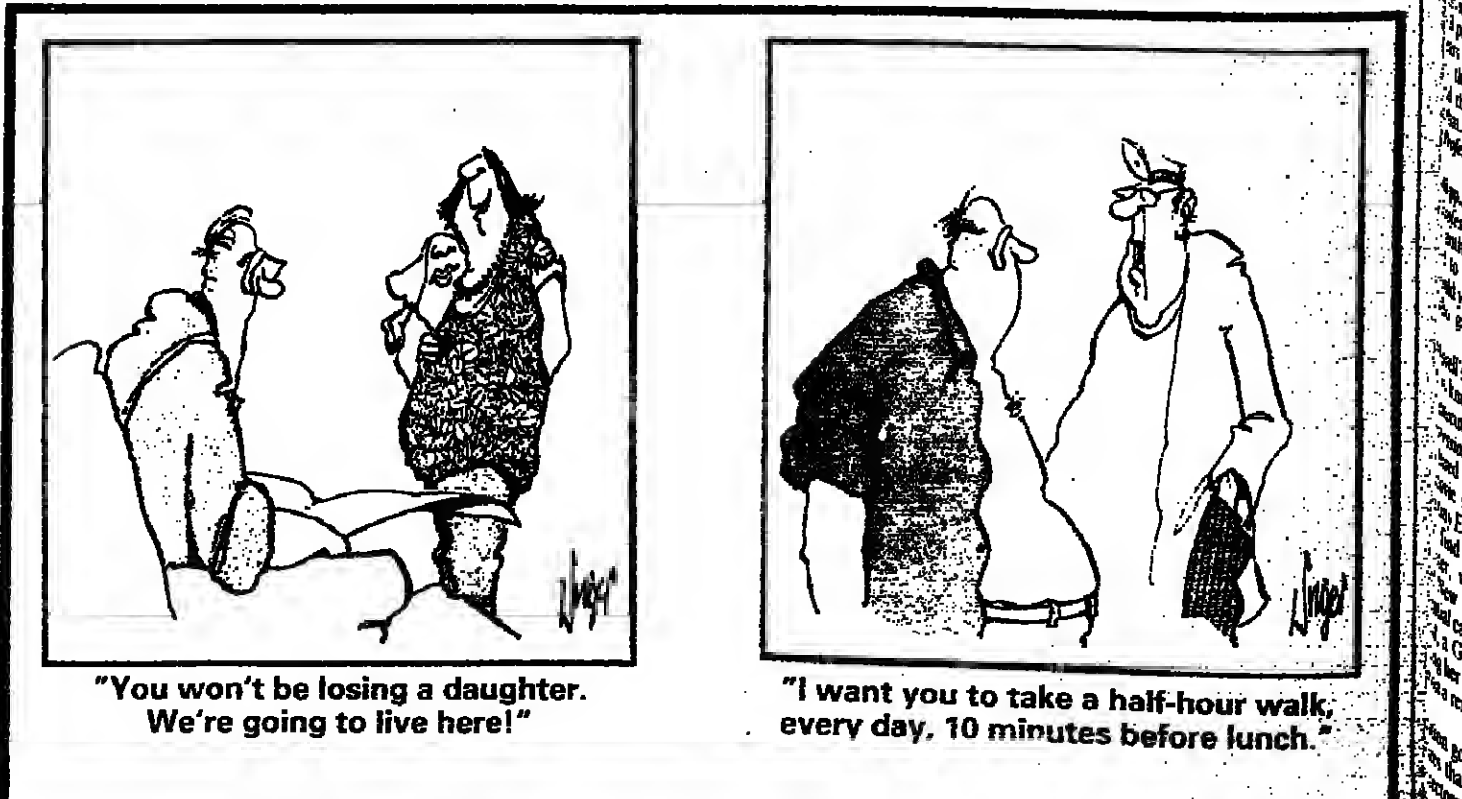
Virgo
Aug. 23 - Sept. 23
You should not neglect your personal life and should take your mind off work for the day. An offer or proposal should be studied carefully before you accept it. Be less selfish.



Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
You should pay a little more attention to the state of your health. Do not spend money you have not got in the hope of a windfall. Do not try to run before you can walk. Be compassionate.



Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
You are more likely to make mistakes so be on the lookout for them. A small infection should not be neglected, nor should it be dwelt too much upon. Make sure you do not break a promise you have made. Be true to your word.



Americans overcome fear of one foreign language—German

After Berlin Wall, they flock to classes

By Katharine A. Schmidt

LOS ANGELES, California, (UPI): When it comes to foreign languages, Americans are hesitant, teachers say, and generally shun tongues with complex grammar rules—like German, for instance.

But as the Berlin Wall crumbles, Americans are overcoming their fear of German and swelling enrollments in classes at cultural centres and universities.

Some of the students are exploring their roots. Others, officials say, are betting that they will need the language to further their careers in business.

"As soon as the changes (at the Berlin

Wall) started to happen, we got calls—people wanted to join our classes, but they were almost over," said Gabriele Landwehr, head of the language programme at the Los Angeles branch of the Goethe Institute, a cultural and educational organisation supported by the West German government.

"Right now, we get people who say, 'you know, my German mother was from Bingen...and now I want to go see it,'" Landwehr said.

The number of classes at the Institute, named for the German poet and scientist Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, has doubled since the Berlin Wall started tumbling last November, she said.

German cultural centres in other cities report a similar rise in interest.

The Goethe Institute in Chicago doubled its language classes, and in Milwaukee, where German traditions are still carried on by 40 cultural groups, the Goethe House increased its number of German history classes by 25 per cent, director Ernst Edlhauser said.

"When the Wall story happened, many more Americans, very often people not of German descent, came and wanted to learn something about German history," Edlhauser said.

Some of those Americans are motivated by the bottom line, teachers say.

"It seems the word is out there that German is still the most difficult of the three languages (that high school students traditionally take)," Strasser said. Students prefer either French or Spanish, he said, and do not yet see the usefulness of German.

Stephen Wailes, head of the German Department at Bloomington University in Indiana, said he thought freshmen may not appreciate the possible effects of political and economic change in Europe.

"My perception is that these events, for young people, are so far away and don't seem to touch their lives in any significant way," he said.

For the older students who are filling

German cultural centres, however, recent events seem to have added to a current of interest in German language and culture that officials link to two factors: the 1983 tricentennial of German immigration to the United States, and West Germany's economic strength within the economic community.

The Goethe Institute in Houston reports a steady increase in language course enrollment since 1983, and this year, it has had many more requests than usual for an exam in business German.

In New York, Laura Koehler of the German Information Centre said Americans of German descent have been more active in events since the

tricentennial.

Breuer, in Chicago, said he considers unification a more important factor.

"I think German unification, and European unification is a much more important subject, in terms of general interest, and our future activities," he said.

Students in the Chicago Goethe Institute are primarily businessmen and women, plus a large number of travel agents and airline attendants, director Walter Breuer said. In Los Angeles, a significant minority of students are business people from Asian and Latin American countries, Landwehr said.

At Pennsylvania State University and the University of Southern California

in Los Angeles, students majoring in subjects such as economics, business and political science are already swelling German course enrollments.

"We're beginning to see students who are pragmatically oriented toward Europe in 1992 (when the economic integration of Europe is to take place)," said Gerhard Strasser, a professor in Penn state's Department of German and Comparative Literature.

He said professors at his school and other universities have noticed a rise in interest over the past year.

"Now with events in East Europe, the liberalisation of trade, that is definitely driving up enrollment," he said.

Book reviews

'Bound to Lead'

Bound to Lead: The Changing Nature of American Power, by Joseph S. Nye Jr.

(Basic books, 307 pp., \$19.95)

THERE is a growing body of work, such as Paul Kennedy's *Rise and Fall of Great Powers*, that contends America's Imperial Age is over and that its influence in the world is declining.

The arguments, however, don't persuade Joseph S. Nye Jr., Ford Foundation Professor of International Security at Harvard University, and in his valuable *Bound to Lead* he sets out to refute the pessimists and naysayers.

Nye begins by persuasively challenging the notion that the United States held hegemonic or imperial sway over the world in the aftermath of World War II. He marshals a host of examples of the nation's inability to get its way in international power and policy disputes.

In separate chapters, Nye examines the military, economic, and cultural resources available to the United States as it enters the 1990s and prepares for the 21st century. He also looks at potential challenges to America's leadership from the communist camp and from allies. Written while events in Eastern Europe were still unfolding, Nye may understate the potential of Europe but is persuasive in rebutting those putting Japan forward as the likely next leading power.

Still, Nye is not a Pollyanna. He argues acutely that the US role is more likely to be undermined by events at home than abroad.

Although his argument is complex and wide-ranging, Nye writes straight-forward prose that makes his work accessible.

A Border Station, by Shane Connaughton

(St Martin's, 165 pp., \$14.95)

This first novel by Academy award-winning screenwriter Shane Connaughton was a best-seller in his native Ireland, and deservedly so.

Connaughton was co-author of the screenplay for the acclaimed film *My Left Foot*. His descriptive prose and obvious empathy with his young hero suggest these seven interconnected stories contain more than a little autobiographical material.

The stories detail incidents in the life of a boy living along the Irish Republic's border with Ulster. Through his relationships with his doting mother, his stern police sergeant father, a police-stricken neighbour and assorted villagers and chums, the boy grows from naive to a grasp of the real world might be like.

Each story is a gem, and together they provide a remarkably insightful glimpse into rural Irish life. This immensely readable book will probably produce laughter, tears and a sense of "I've been there" in many readers. And there's no higher praise than that.

The Fifth Profession, by David Morrell

(Warner, 448 pp., \$19.95)

The Fifth Profession starts at a pace most authors would be hard-pressed to end with. But what else would you expect from the man who gave the world *Rambo*.

David Morrell's hero in his latest novel is known simply as *Savage*, an executive protector, the *Fifth Profession*.

Savage is hired by a beautiful American movie star, now the princess of a tiny European principality, to find her equally beautiful sister, widow of an assassinated New England senator-presidential candidate. Her new husband, a Greek millionaire, is holding her prisoner and abusing her on a remote Aegean island.

The operation goes well until *Savage* realizes that one of the Greek's protectors is Akira, a Japanese whom *Savage* had seen decapitated when they worked together on a previous assignment. Akira, who also 'saw' *Savage* killed, joins forces with *Savage* to find the truth.



A Rwandan peasant woman tends a tiny patch of sweet potatoes on a hillside near the southern town of Butare.

Rwanda suffers 'green hunger'

Peasants go hungry

By Frances Kerry

BUTARE, Rwanda, (Reuters): On a picturesque hillside in southern Rwanda a peasant woman hoes a tiny, sloping patch of sweet potatoes.

A soft rain is falling and around her the small fields of bananas, beans, potatoes, maize and coffee are lush and fertile.

But, with a baby strapped to her back and three other children playing nearby, Domitienne Kanai is struggling to feed her family.

"The days we have food, we eat. The days we don't, we just go to sleep hungry," she says.

This is 'green famine' in Rwanda, a small country in Central Africa with one of the highest population densities on the continent.

Relief workers call it hidden hunger because the backdrop is not the parched earth and withered crops of a traditional African famine, but an apparently blooming garden.

They estimate that several hundred people have died of hunger over the last six months. Hundreds of thousands of people in southern and western Rwanda are facing acute food shortages due to a series of setbacks to their crops over the past 18 months—hail, too much rain, not enough rain and plant diseases.

Underlying all this is a chronic cause—Rwanda has simply become too densely populated to feed itself.

"They can't keep up anymore," said Ardag Meghdesian, representative of the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) in Rwanda.

"The balance—between growth in production and growth in population—has broken."

The WFP and the government aim to distribute 8,000 tonnes of food aid to 240,000 of the neediest people from now until June.

"Overpopulation is one of the main reasons for this year's food shortages," said Jean-

Christome Ndinababizi, director of the National Population Control Programme in Butare, one of the most densely populated and worst hit provinces.

"It's just a question of too many people on not enough land."

With more than seven million people squeezed into 26,000 square km (10,000 square miles), an area the size of Ireland, this former Belgian colony has a population density of 350 people per square km (560 per square mile).

And despite vigorous government support for family planning, Rwanda's 3.7 per cent annual population growth rate is one of the world's highest.

Agriculture Minister Anastase Nteziryayo said present plans to feed only the most needy famine victims left out several hundred thousand other people expected to go hungry this year.

The worst affected were those with so little land they could not cope when their small harvest was reduced by bad weather or disease, he said.

"When times are bad, these people have no reserves."

Landlocked, almost entirely mountainous and with a balmy, well-watered climate, Rwanda likes to call itself the Switzerland of Africa.

But the tiny plots cultivated on every hillside by its peasant farmers are getting smaller as each generation divides up the family land among the children.

The average family of five lives from the food and cash crops grown on one hectare (2.4 acres) of land. Some 2.5 million people live on half that.

Despite efforts to terrace the hillsides and prevent erosion, constant cultivation is exhausting the soil and reducing its productivity.

"Farmers can't afford any more to leave 20

per cent of their land fallow for a year like they used to," said Meghdesian.

Coffee—which provides 90 per cent of Rwanda's export revenue—has also been hit by bad weather and disease.

Poor harvests and a slump in world coffee prices have combined to reduce the small cash income many farmers rely on to buy food they cannot grow.

The government was forced to cut the price it pays farmers for their coffee by 20 per cent last January, so many peasants were left with virtually no money, Nteziryayo said.

Relief and diplomatic sources in the capital Kigali said the government was at first reluctant to admit there were food shortages.

"They have always had a passion for self-sufficiency. It has come as a blow to admit there were shortages," said one diplomatic source.

Meghdesian said more help may soon be needed as the prospects for this year's harvest are not good either.

In the longer term, today's temporary food shortages could become a permanent deficit.

"We cannot put our hope in agriculture," Nteziryayo said. "Maybe we could increase yields with more fertiliser, more pesticides, but the problem would be back in five to 10 years."

With virtually no industry, Rwanda will have to look fast for ways to support itself.

"There may even have to be a programme of emigration, to nearby countries which have more land," the agriculture minister said.

A few years ago, Rwanda put forward a plan for one million of its citizens to emigrate to neighbouring Tanzania. But it fell through because Tanzania would not allow them to be settled in areas near the Rwandan frontier.

Some see Rwanda's current crisis as a lesson for the rest of Africa.

"This is a showcase of what could happen to Africa if there is not a big increase in agricultural production and a slowing in population growth," said Meghdesian.

The past catches up with Rob Lowe..on screen

By Frank Durham

PRETTY-BOY Brat Packer Rob Lowe just can't seem to put his real-life naughty boy image behind him. Just when the world might be getting round to forgetting his indiscretions with an under-age girl, here comes a new movie about an amazingly similar situation—and he's the star!

Rob admits the steamy video which put him in the headlines was a mistake he would rather forget and he has agreed to do 16 hours a week community service for two years, touring schools to lecture youngsters on drug abuse.

But his latest movie will do little to help the 26-year-old actor shake off his image as the bad boy of Hollywood. For in *Bad Influence*, Rob is cast as playboy Alex, an amoral drifter. And ironically, the character secretly videotapes his friend having a sexual fling!

Rob, who starred in *About Last Night* and *Si Elmo's Fire*, is quick to defend the similarity between the film's plot and the scandal which almost wrecked his career.

He says: "I hope people are not stupid enough to believe that this movie is the Rob Lowe story. Everybody was talking about the parallels but I was not as blown away by them as some people."

"What's the big deal? Tons of people use video tapes."

When the news broke last year that Rob had video-taped steamy sex sessions involving a 16-year-old schoolgirl Jan Parsons, many movie bosses were hesitant to offer him roles... especially when a survey of American women revealed that 68 per cent would not be watching any more of his films!

Thousands of copies of the steamy home movie shot in an Atlanta hotel room during the Democratic convention in July 1988 changed hands for \$1,200 each. And Rob narrowly escaped a 20-year jail sentence for the sexual exploitation of a minor, had criminal charges been filed.

He says now: "There was nothing wrong with my ethics. It was just bad judgment. I made a mistake and part of being a man is having the courage to face those mistakes."

"That was my mistake in not seeing a situation developing. Bad judgment covers all aspects of it."

He is a little bitter that others have benefited from his bad publicity. He says: "There's this guy in New York selling the tape and making a fortune. I heard he'd made over half a million dollars. I think that's just sick."

Although Rob may have lost many



His new movie will do little to clean up Rob Lowe's 'bad boy' image. Here he is in a scene from *Bad Influence* with Lisa Zane.



Rob Lowe and James Spader co-star with Lisa Zane in the psychological thriller *Bad Influence*.

Influence, Steve Tisch, still believes casting him as the handsome drifter could make the film a big hit. He says: "Heightened curiosity about Rob could translate into good box-office. Selfishly, I hope the film performs well."

"If it is a success, then Rob will remain employable in this town for a long time."

Oddly enough, Rob's co-star in *Bad Influence* is James Spader who made a big hit in sex-lies-and-video-tapes as Graham, who videos girls talking about sex.

In *Bad Influence*, Spader plays Michael, a successful marketing analyst climbing the corporate ladder with amazing dexterity. When he meets Alex, the charming and unpredictable

drifter, it is a case of opposites attracting, although Michael knows Alex will be a "bad influence."

Alex exposes the play-by-the-rules yuppie Michael to the wild underground club scene in Los Angeles. And life becomes a series of late nights, parties and hangovers...until Michael finds himself in the middle of a nightmare.

Producer Tisch says: "Rob's character is the classic guy our parents warned us to stay away from."

Rob adds: "He has a line in the movie that I particularly like where he says, 'People walk through their whole lives playing innocent until the day they die. But they're not. No one is innocent.'"

"And it's true. Everyone is bad, everyone is good, everyone makes mis-

takes. Everyone is God, everyone is the Devil."

"It's all within us and to pretend that you're just one way or the other...to pretend that you're godly would be just as wrong as pretending you're purely the Devil. There are many shades of grey in all of us and a lot of people try to pretend to be things they're not."

"Most people are not willing to look into themselves and see that a dark side does exist. Alex is very willing to do so and that's what makes him somewhat appealing and seductive to Michael. He's never met anyone quite like Alex."

"I think people will definitely look at me in a different way after this film. My choice to play Alex rather than Michael sends a message to the community and



Actors Rob Lowe and James Spader team up for *Bad Influence*.

to the audience not to pigeonhole me in any way."

"I think it is about time I played a villain and this guy really has no soul."

Rob, who was raised in Ohio, got into acting as a child in summer theatre, commercials and local television. He says: "I started acting when I was about nine. I went to see the musical *Oliver!* and I thought, 'That would be really fun to do.'"

At 17 and a veteran of more than 30 stage plays, Rob was offered a part in Francis Ford Coppola's *The Outsiders*. His young co-stars included Tom Cruise, Patrick Swayze, Emilio Estevez and Matt Dillon. The movie marked the beginning of Rob's Brat Packer image.

But he is determined to lose that tag. He says: "Brat Pack's just a phrase that is handy for critics. It's a romantic notion that we all hang around together, but it's just not true at all."

And despite his bizarre new role, the actor whose lovers have included Princess Stephanie of Monaco, Irangate secretary Fawn Hall and even pop star Grace Jones, is trying to put last year's scandal behind him.

He says: "Today things look real good. I feel better about myself in every respect than I have in the past. I feel like I've grown up 10 years in the past few months."

"I want to live each day as if it is my last. I work hard and I play hard. Very hard. I've got a lot of energy and I try to fit as much as I can into a day."

"I don't think people are any less effective as role models if they make mistakes."

And teen-idol Rob Lowe is the first to admit he's no angel...even though the world already knows that!

Cinco de Mayo (May 5th)

Directions: Draw a line from the words in Column A to the English meanings in Column B. Use these pairs to solve the message. Place the letter of the pair in the box below the number. A letter may be used more than once.

Column A

1. enero
2. febrero
3. marzo
4. abril
5. mayo
6. junio
7. julio
8. agosto
9. septiembre
10. octubre
11. noviembre
12. diciembre

Column B

- a. January
- c. June
- d. November
- e. March
- h. August
- i. May
- l. October
- m. February
- n. July
- o. September
- x. April
- y. December

Message

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
A					A	

8	9	10	5	11	1	12
				A		

Questions you'd like to ask

How can I change the way I feel?

Sometimes it's hard. Often you can change the way you feel by thinking differently. You may feel sad when your parents go out and leave you with a babysitter. You'll probably feel better when you remember that this particular babysitter knows how to do magic tricks and tells great bedtime stories. Sometimes a change of activity can change the way you feel. When you act happy, you're more likely to *feel* happy.

I dried my last tear,
I swear not to be seen,
I am leaving this world,
looking for my sweet home.

I climbed the clouds into the sky,
I counted the stars to keep my eyes
alive.

The wind keeps telling me,
it is my destiny calling me:

Then I know I will never smile again

Is it a good or bad life I have,
or is it death which will save my life.

Never smile again

Now I realise how precious the life I
used to have was,
in my new world I miss everything nice.

Where is the best friend I used to have,
loneliness surrounds me ever more.

I cry mother, father, come back and
take me,
noon seems to hear my cry.

There is no sun.

there are no stars, darkness covers the
town

Then I know I'll never smile again

I hate this world and hate to be alone,
I wish I could go back to my real world.

A wish which will never come true,
I will lie alone

Nessar Mohammed

Dear Junior Readers,

Kuwait is currently producing a number of plays being shown locally. Do you know the history of the theatres?

Theatre as we know it first developed in Greece as part of religious observance. The stage was simply a circle of turf on which the worshippers danced around the altar of Dionysus. The spot was usually at the foot of a hill so that the spectators on the slopes could watch the dancing.

This started the tradition of Greek theatres — semicircles of seats built into a hillside. In fact, the word "theatre" is of Greek origin and means "a place for seeing."

A theatre built in Athens about 500 B.C. has a circular place, called the orchestra, where the performance was given. Erected behind the circle of the orchestra was a dignified-looking stage building. It was used as dressing place for the performers. This "skene" (from which comes the word "scene") served as background for the

action of the play. Very little scenery was used by the Greeks, and no artificial lighting was needed, because the plays were presented in the daytime.

The first permanent stone was built in Rome in 528 B.C. The theatres of the Romans were similar to those of the Greeks, except that they were built on level ground. The Romans were the first to fill the orchestra with seats and present the play on a raised stage behind which was the "skene."

After the Roman world turned Christian, no theatres were built for about a thousand years. The first modern theatre was the Teatro Farnese at Parma, Italy. It was built in 1618 or 1619. Its stage, instead of projecting far out into the orchestra, was built into one of the walls. A curtain was used to separate the stage from the auditorium, so that changes of scenery could be made out of sight of the audience.

Manal

Did you know?

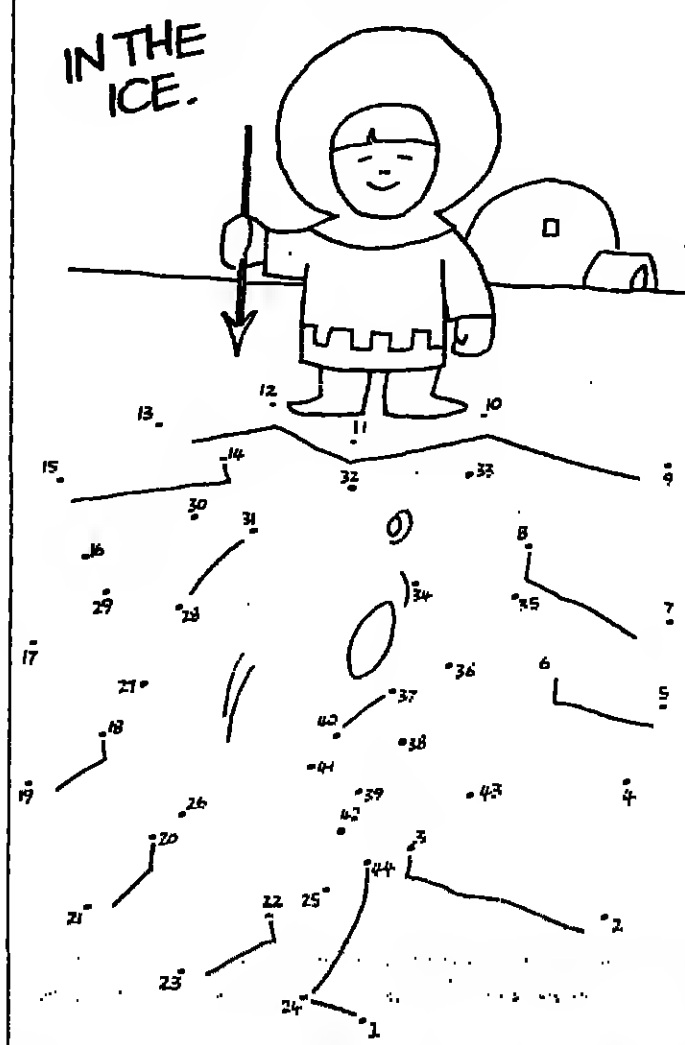
Scientists think that all the land on earth was first joined into one large mass called Pangaea. The continents we know today were created when Pangaea broke up.

The red flag with the ham-

mer and sickle symbols of the USSR was first used in 1917.

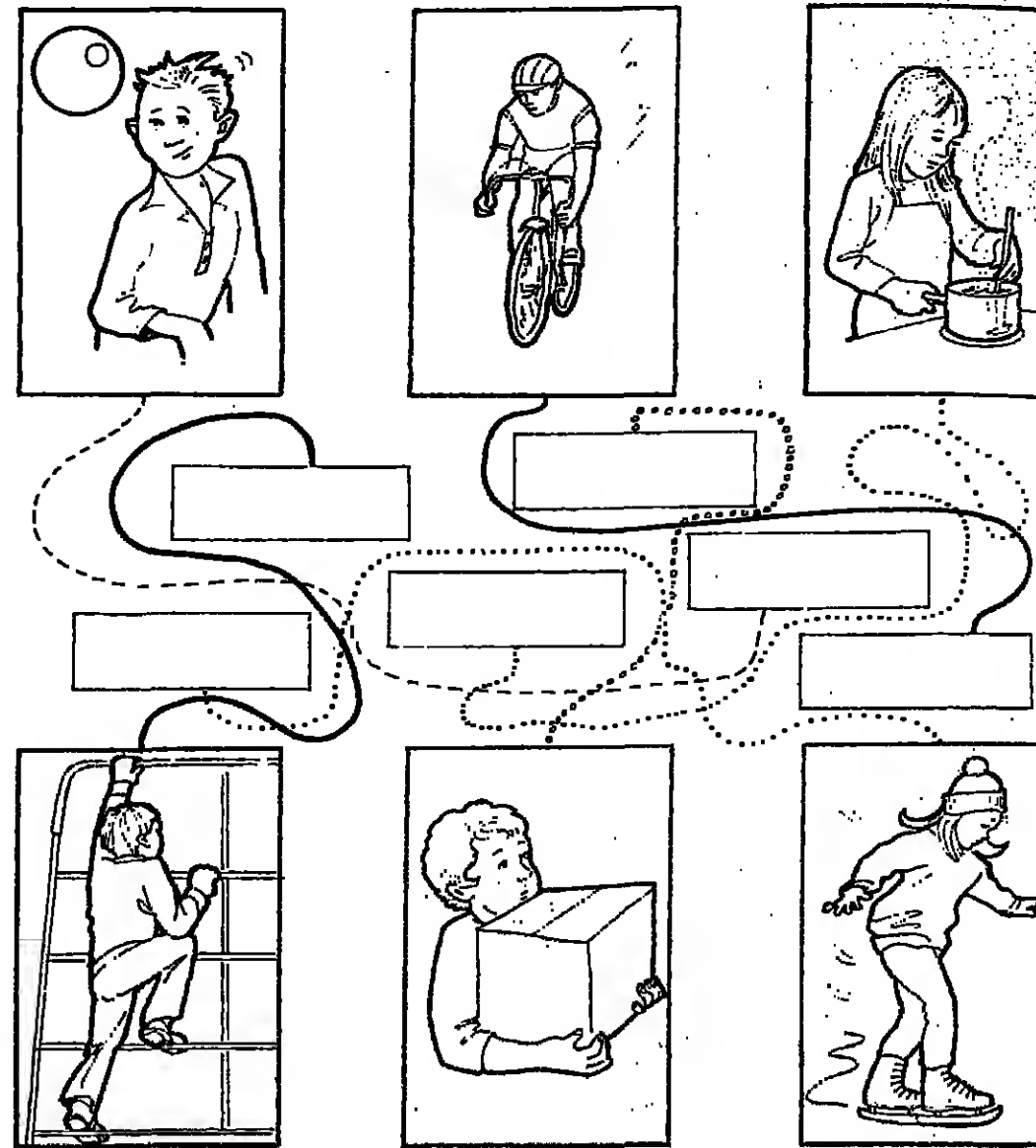
In March, 1978, Vladimir Remek of Czechoslovakia became the first non-American or non-Russian in space when he flew in Soyuz XXVIII.

Join the dots



Actions 1

What are they doing?
Use a different colour for each person.



BUILDING SITE

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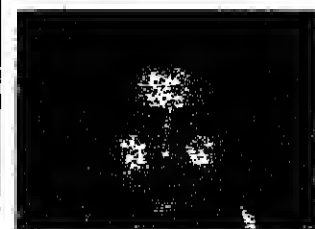
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Clue: Garden shed (3 letters)

Congratulations

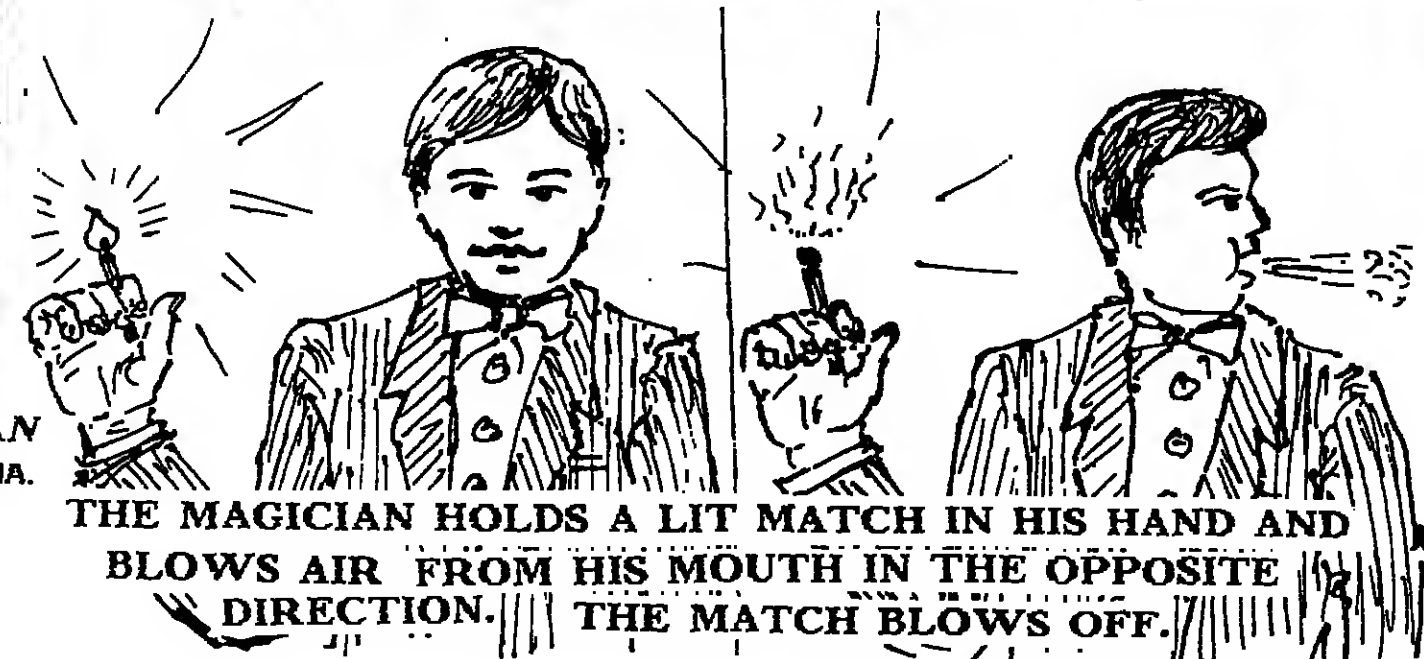


Faraz Akhtar of International School of Pakistan stood second in the second class scoring 577/600.

THE MYSTERIOUS MATCH OFF:



MARCO
THE MAGICIAN
403708, GOA, INDIA.



THE MAGICIAN HOLDS A LIT MATCH IN HIS HAND AND BLOWS AIR FROM HIS MOUTH IN THE OPPOSITE DIRECTION. THE MATCH BLOWS OFF.

SECRET:

HOLD THE BURNING MATCH AS SHOWN IN FIG "A".

WHILE BLOWING STRIKE THE BOTTOM OF THE MATCH WITH THUMB AS SHOWN IN FIG "B".



Fig. A

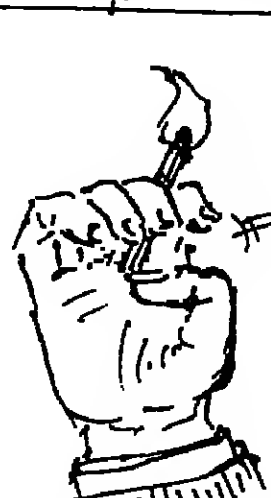


Fig. B

REMEMBER: DO NOT LOOK AT THE MATCH WHILE STRIKING. TRY TO MISDIRECT YOUR AUDIENCE BY BLOWING AIR ON THE OPPOSITE DIRECTION.

CAUTION: ALL FIRE MAGIC IS DANGEROUS

Circus criss-cross

The words listed below are all things that you might see at the circus. Can you fit them into the grid by counting the empty squares and working out where each one goes?

One word has been filled in already to give you a start.

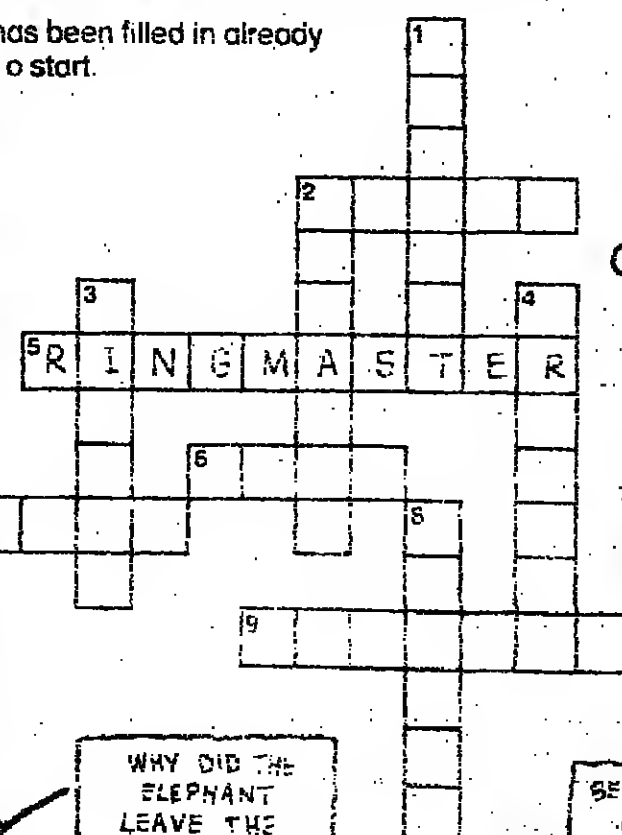
4 letters
SEAL

5 letters
CLOWN

6 letters
BIG TOP
MONKEY
TICKET

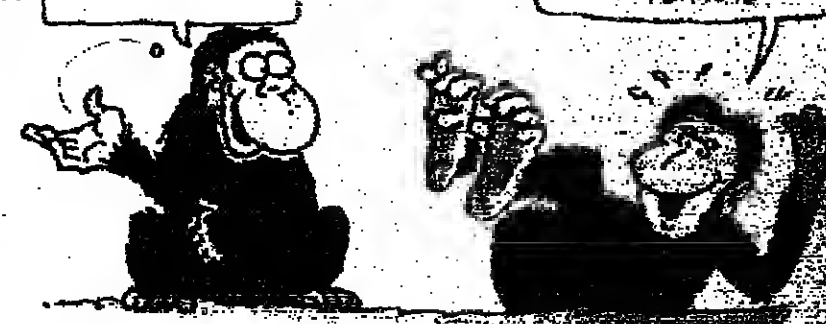
7 letters
ACROBAT
CARAVAN
JUGGLER
TRAPEZE

10 letters
RINGMASTER



WHY DID THE ELEPHANT LEAVE THE CIRCUS?

BECAUSE HE WAS TIRED OF WORKING FOR PEANUTS!



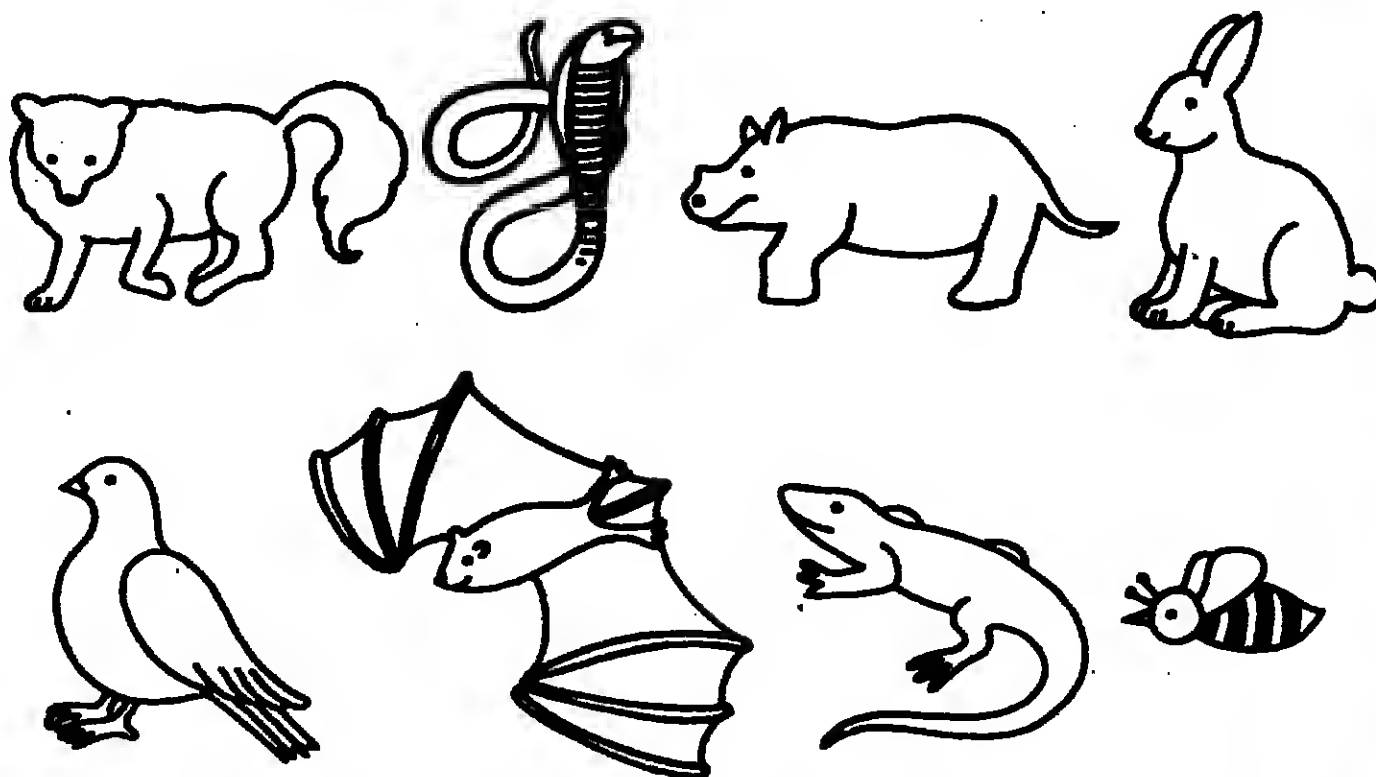
Little Grey Rabbit's larder

Find the six carrots hidden in the picture. Now draw some other objects on the shelves to complete the picture.



Walking, flying, swimming and climbing

Animals move in different ways. In each group, colour in the animal which moves in a different way from the other animals.

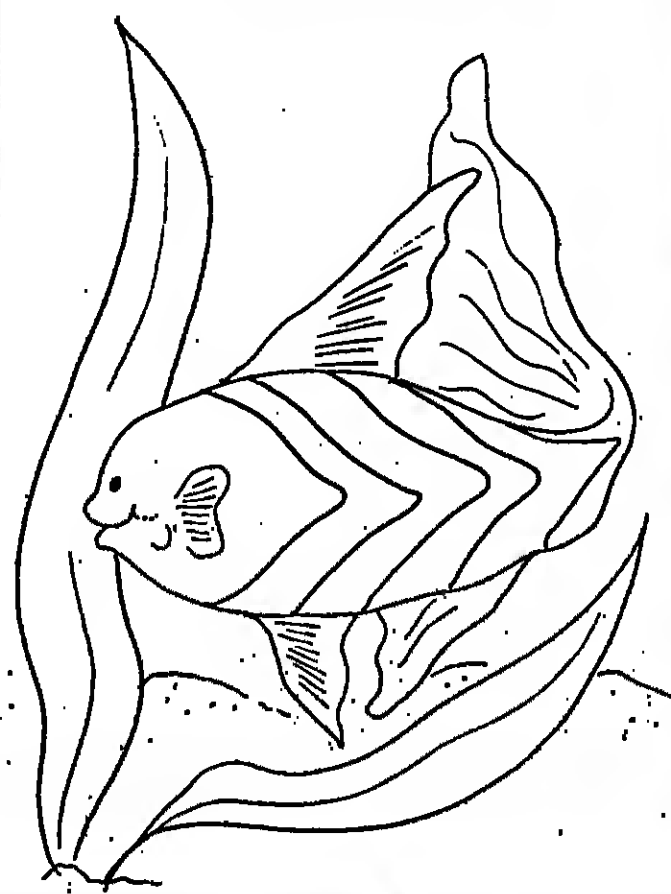


Name the Flowers ...



... from these pictures.

Colouring time



TROPICAL FISH

Just for laughs!

'What would you like for your birthday, Sis?'
'I'd like a dress to match the colour of my eyes.'
'Would you? Where am I going to get a bloodshot frock?'

'My boyfriend says I look like a dishy Italian!' said Miss Conceited.
'He's right,' said her brother.
'Sophia Loren?'
'No — spaghetti!'

'Is my dinner hot?' asked the excessively late husband.
'It should be,' said his furious wife, 'it's been on the fire since seven o'clock!'

'Mum, now that I'm fifteen, can I wear lipstick and mascara and perfume and pluck my eyebrows and get my hair waved?'
'No, James, you may not.'

Amazing facts

Women of the Jos Plateau, Togoland, Africa, make known their married status by wearing a small bustle of plaited straw.

In Chaouen, in Northern Morocco you can see snow on trees and rooftops during the summer.

Before evolving his theory of relativity, Albert Einstein had worked as a clerk in a patents office.

The paradise fish of Thailand builds its nest underwater, bringing air from the surface and saliva to create a nest of bubbles.

Fireflies are bright enough to shine through the stomach of a frog.

The first adhesive postage stamps (the Penny Blacks) came into use in England on May 6, 1840.

A Doberman dog once tracked a stock thief 100 miles by scent alone across the Great Karroo, South Africa.

Flies take off with a backward jump.

A half-breed fox terrier living in Sydney, Australia hates cats and has killed ten, but has kidnapped a ginger kitten and looks after it like a puppy and won't give it up to its mother.

Before 1920 it was rare for trucks to move faster than 10 mph.

Pepi II was Pharaoh in Egypt for ninety-four years.

Happy birthday



Mayank Nanda turns 2 on May 5.



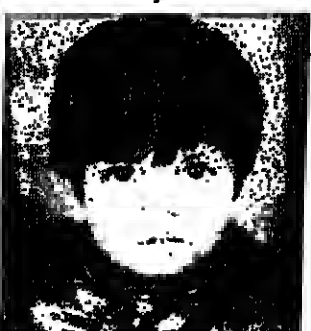
Suhail Vilakkiri turned 5 on May 3.



Savio D'Souza turned 9 on May 3.



Asha Edinard turned 5 May 8.



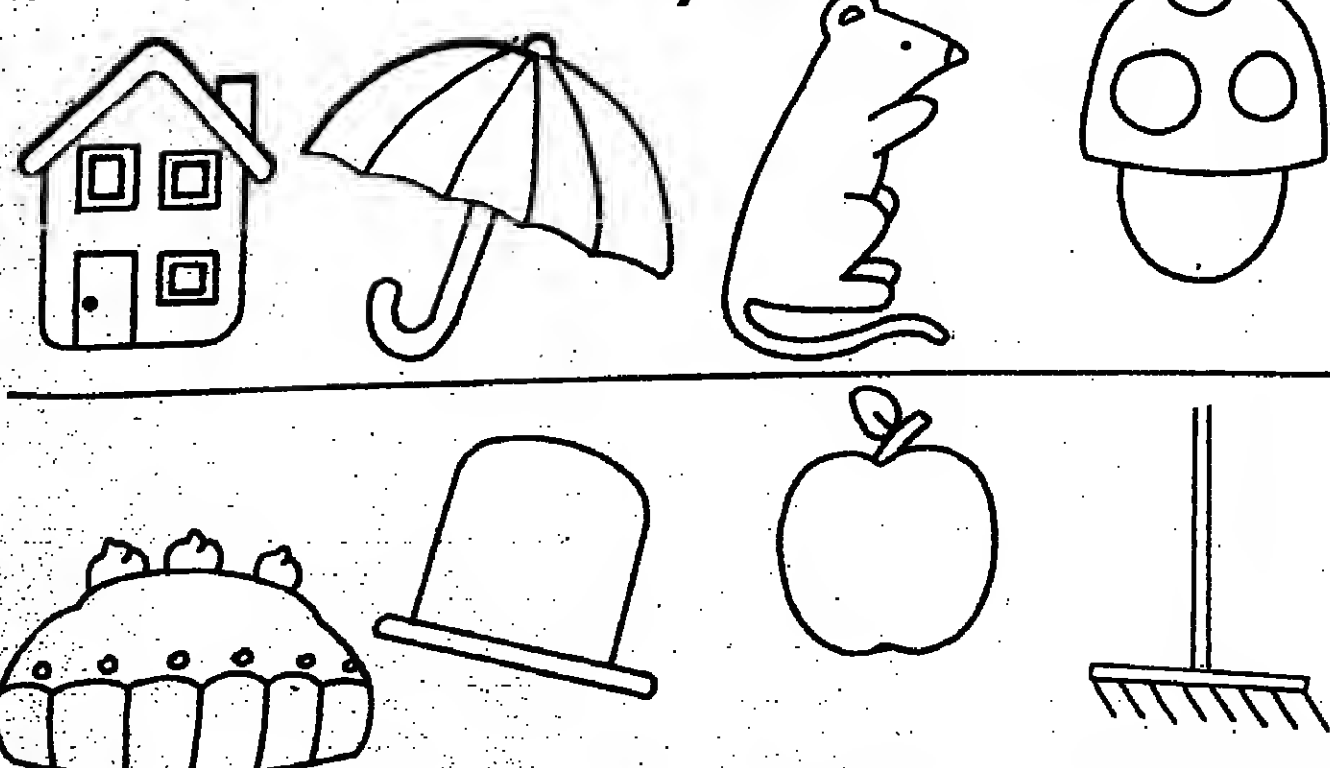
Mubin Al Rashid turned 4 on April 30.



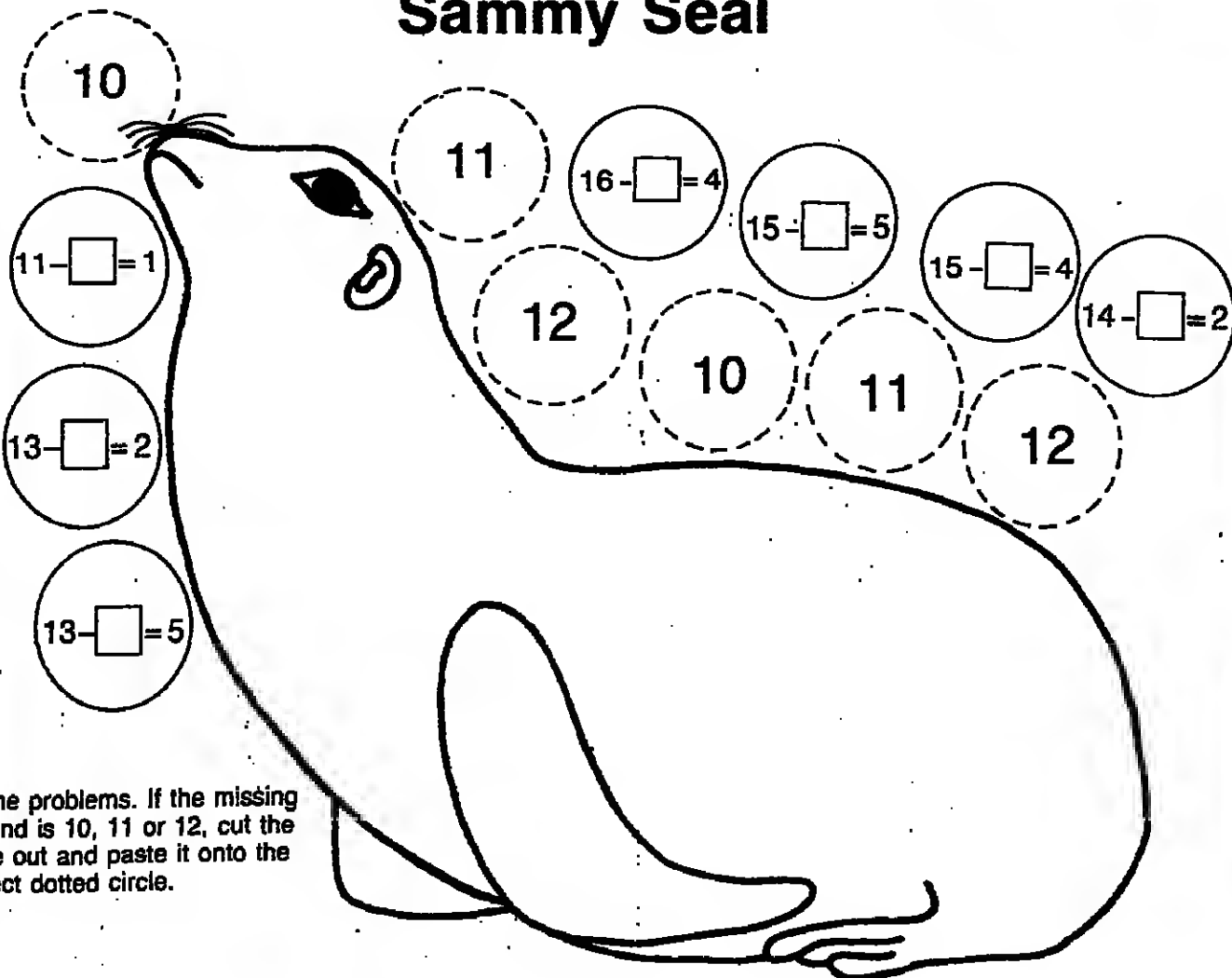
Afrah Sheriff turned 11 on May 7.

Find the words in each line that sound same.

Rhymes



Sammy Seal



Do the problems. If the missing addend is 10, 11 or 12, cut the circle out and paste it onto the correct dotted circle.

ARAB TIMES Classifieds

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— Good for a foreign family
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Abdulla

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4838200 Ext. 2905
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Mohammed Shihada

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9. PROJECT
10. FINAL EXAM
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Rodman gets top NBA award

NEW YORK, May 8, (Reuters): Dennis Rodman, whose tenacious play was a key factor in helping the Detroit Pistons allow the fewest points in the National Basketball Association this season, was named the League's Defensive Player of the Year, the NBA announced yesterday.

The 6-foot eight-inch (2.03-metre) Rodman, who moved to starting forward for Detroit midway through the season after being one of the

League's premier sixth men, received 49 of 92 votes from panel of sports writers and broadcasters to beat Houston centre Akom Oluwalan for top defensive honours.

Oluwalan, who led the NBA in rebounding and blocked shots received 35 votes. Detroit's Joe Dumars and Derek Harper of the Dallas Mavericks each received two votes with four other players garnering one vote each.

Rodman, a four-year veteran, who made the

NBA All-Star team this year for his outstanding defensive skills, led the NBA champion Pistons in rebounding with 9.7 per game and usually drew the assignment of guarding the opposition's most dangerous scorer.

"I just love defence so much that it's like a burning desire that keeps me going," Rodman said. "So this (award) is the biggest tribute you could pay to a player like me."

MCC beat New Zealand

Gower makes spectacular return

LONDON, May 8, (Reuters): Former England cricket captain David Gower made a spectacular return to form yesterday as MCC defeated New Zealand by six wickets in their one-day cricket match at Lord's.

Gower, who has had an indifferent start to the season with his new county Hampshire, stroked 97 in the MCC total of 224 for six with 4.1 of their 55 overs remaining.

New Zealand tallied 222 for eight when their overs ran out with Andrew Jones scoring 49 and Mark Greatbatch 52.

The elegant Gower, who was sacked as England captain last year then omitted from the touring side to the West Indies, was particularly harsh on Danny Morrison, the tourists' fastest bowler.

Gower hit Morrison's fifth ball for six then took 16 off the paceman's fifth over, including another six.

He compiled his 97 from only 104 deliveries, including two sixes and 11 fours before giving a delivery to reserve wicketkeeper Adam Parore off the persevering Martin Snedden.

Seamer Snedden was easily the

with three for 28 from 10 overs. Earlier, Jones and Greatbatch, vital components of the powerful New Zealand middle order, added 85 for the third

wicket against a distinctly makeshift bowling attack. But after they were parted the New Zealanders lost momentum, with acting captain Martin

Crowe falling for 26 just as he was getting into his stride.



Gower led MCC from the front

Scoreboard

NEW ZEALAND	222
T. Franklin c Tulnet b Tremlett	29
J. Crowe c B Lever	49
A. Jones c Parks b Bainbridge	52
M. Greatbatch c Wright b Jarvis	52
S. Thomson b Bainbridge	5
M. Crowe c Parks b Tremlett	26
M. Priest c Bainbridge b Jarvis	28
A. Parore run out	6
M. Snedden not out	8
Extras (8-1 lb-2 w-15)	18
Total (for eight wickets, 55 overs)	222
Fall of wickets: 1-82-43-129-4-135-5-184-6-178-7-206-8-222	
Did not bat: D. Morrison, J. Millmow	
Bowling: Jarvis 11-1-49-2, Lever 11-1-45-1, Tulnet 11-4-42-0, Tremlett 11-0-50-2, Bainbridge 11-1-33-2	
MCC	
A. Wright c Parore b Snedden	8
P. Terry b Milbrow	4
D. Gower c Parore b Snedden	97
M. Ramprakash c M. Crowe b Snedden	6
K. Brown not out	79
P. Bainbridge not out	19
Extras (8-4 lb-3 w-4)	11
Total (for four wickets, 50.5 overs)	224
Fall of wickets: 1-82-46-3-82-4-171	
Did not bat: T. Tremlett, R. Parks, J. Lever, P. Tulnet, K. Jarvis	
Bowling: Morrison 5-1-33-0, Milmow 10-4-43-1, Snedden 10-3-28-3, Thomson 9.5-1-40-0, Priest 11-0-40-0, Jones 5-0-33-0	
Result: MCC won by six wickets.	

Perez stops Martinez to retain title

LOS ANGELES, May 8, (Reuters): Mexico's Perez retained his World Boxing Council bantamweight championship yesterday when he stopped third-ranked contender Gerardo Martinez in the second of the ninth round.

Perez, making his fifth title defence, knocked Martinez to the canvas with a flurry of lefts and rights to the challenger's head.

Martinez struggled to his feet, but the 23-year-old champion knocked him down again. Referee Henry Escamero stopped the scheduled 12-round bout after the second knockdown at two minutes 59 seconds of the ninth round.

Advantage

Perez, who stands 1.80 metres tall, used his 20 cm reach advantage effectively against his shorter opponent and scored throughout the fight with left jabs and rights to the 24-year-old Martinez's head.

"The fight came through the way I like them to," Perez said afterwards.

Martinez fought aggressively but said he was hampered by a pair of slippery shoes.

"The shoes were the main factor of the fight," Martinez said. He said the slippery footing sapped some of the power from the punches.

Lancashire set records

LONDON, May 8, (Reuters): Lancashire amassed 863, the third highest total ever scored by a team in England, as cricket's record books were rewritten in their county championship match against Surrey at the Oval yesterday.

The run feast on a blameless pitch in almost unbroken sunshine produced a record aggregate for a championship match of 1,650 runs, beating the previous mark of 1,570 set by Essex and Kent at Chelmsford two years ago.

Lancashire middle-order batsman Neil Fairbrother stole the honours on the fourth and final day of the drawn match by piling up 366, the highest individual score at the Oval.

Fairbrother's 500-minute innings containing five sixes and 47 fours beat the previous highest on the ground of 364 by Len Hutton for England against Australia in 1938.

Lancashire's total has been surpassed in this country only by England's 903 for seven declared against Australia in 1938 — the Test in which Hutton made his 364 — and by Yorkshire's 887 against Warwickshire in 1896.

When Lancashire resumed the last day on 665 for three, the Surrey groundstaff even contemplated the prospect of the visitors reaching a total of 1,000 by adding a fourth notch to the scoreboard.

In the event, Lancashire suffered a comparative slump after reaching 745 for three and their last seven wickets went for 118, giving them a first innings lead of 156.

Surrey, who had launched the match that was studied with personal and team landmarks by making 707 for nine declared, were 80 for one at the close.

Runs flowed in torrents at other championship matches, and it was not only the specialist batsmen who took advantage of ideal scoring conditions.

Pace bowler Neil Foster, banned from Test cricket for five years after taking part in the English rebel tour of South Africa earlier this year, completed the fastest championship century of the season.

Foster reached three figures off 77 balls and ended with 101 as Essex amassed 761 for six declared against Leicestershire in a drawn game at Chelmsford.

Former England fast bowler Graham Dilley, another rebel tourist, fired champions Worcestershire to victory by an innings and six runs over Nottinghamshire at Worcester.

Dilley took four for 16 on the fourth and last day to finish with five for 62, and also forced England off-spinner Eddie Hemmings to retire but when he was hit in the face by a sharply lifting delivery.

Nottinghamshire, 347 behind on first innings, crumbled from their overnight 302 for four to 341 all out.

Kent left-arm spinner Richard Davis captured a career-best six for 59, including three wickets in 12 balls, to set up a five-wicket win over Sussex at Folkestone.

Results

At Worcester: Worcestershire beat Nottinghamshire by an innings and six runs. Worcestershire 481 in 170.5 overs. Nottinghamshire 134 in 51.2 over and 341 (D. Randall) 87, P. Johnson 83, G. Dilley five for 62, Worcestershire 23 points, Nottinghamshire two.

At the Oval: Match drawn. Surrey 707 for nine declared in 165.1 overs and 80 for one (A. Stewart 54 not out). Lancashire 863 in 224.5 overs (N. Fairbrother 366, M. Watkinson 46, W. Hegg 45). Surrey four points, Lancashire six.

At Chelmsford: match drawn. Leicestershire 520 in 181 overs and 249 for three (N. Briers 104, T. Boon 89). Essex 761 for six declared in 159.5 overs (N. Foster 101, B. Hardie 74). Essex five points, Leicestershire three.

At Folkestone: Kent beat Sussex by five wickets. Sussex 356 in 140.4 overs and 189 (P. Moores 46, R. Davis six for 59). Kent 465 in 187.1 overs (R. Ellison 81, T. Dodemaide four for 105) and 84 for five (T. Dodemaide four for 29). Kent 20 points, Sussex four.



Billy Vukovich III hits the wall during practice for the Indy 500 yesterday. Vukovich was hospitalised with concussion. (Reuters wirephoto)

Quli Qutub tourney dates announced

THE sports committee for the celebrations of 400th anniversary of Hyderabad (Deccan) has announced dates for the Quli Qutub Shah Memorial Cricket Tournament matches between the following teams. All the listed players must report for practice and matches on the specified dates.

Ghulam Ahmad XI: Andrew Pinho (captain); Quram (vice-captain); Syed Mumtaz; Ayub; Abbas Aqueel; Mohammed Ghous; Afzal Khan, Hasan Ali; Jameel; Satyam; Amanulla; Vasanth Shujuddin.

Abbas Ali XI: Shahid Ali Mirza (captain); Ashfaq R. Khan (vice-captain); Masood; Rajender Kumar; Siddique; Rafiq Mulla; Sami; Arif ul Hasan; Asad; Basheer; Shoukat Ali; Mohammed; Aziz; Farooq.

Abid Ali XI: Shaheen Khan (captain); Akhilesh (vice-captain); Manju Salfar; Farid; Hafeez; Kaleem ul Hasan; Kareem Irfan; Ashraf; Muzaffar; Saleem; Abdul Rahim; Riaz (Sr); Farid (Jr); Ejaz (Juniar).

Jaishaba XI: Ejaz Mohd (captain); Srinivas Rao (vice-captain); Ameer Khan; Tazher; Sajid Aamir; M; Amberkhan; Mukarram; Micheal; Hamid, Salman Riaz; Moimuddin; Sadiq; Feroze Ali; Fahimuddin.

Reserve players: M. Haseeb Khan; Shakaal.

Schedule: May 9, 1990, 3.00 pm — practice at Jeeb Al Shuyoukh Grounds May 11, 1990, 7.30 am — First round matches at Salimya Grounds May 11, 1990, 8.00 am — Finals at Jeeb Al Shuyoukh Ground.

Olazabal pips Woosnam for B&H crown

ST MEILLON, England, May 8, (Reuters): Spaniard Jose-Maria Olazabal sank a eurling, downhill putt on the last green to snatch a one-shot victory over Britain's Ian Woosnam in a thrilling climax to the Benson and Hedges International golf tournament yesterday.

Olazabal's victory — his first in Britain as a professional — was achieved with a last round of 73 for a nine-under-par total of 279 after Woosnam missed a putt of just over three feet on the 17th green.

"The ball jumped as Woosie hit it and that let me win," Olazabal said.

Woosnam also had a final round of 73, leaving him two strokes clear of third-placed West German Bernhard Langer, who had a 70 for 282.

Olazabal is the only player to win the boys, youths and amateur championships in Britain, but since he turned professional four years ago, success here had eluded him.

"I have been looking forward enormously to my first win here," he said.

Bulls triumph

CHICAGO, May 8, (AP): Michael Jordan scored 39 points and the Chicago Bulls survived a cold spell early in the fourth quarter, beating the Philadelphia 76ers 96-85 in the opener of their best-of-7 NBA playoff series.

Leading by 12 points early in last night's game and by 10 points several times in the third quarter, the Bulls and Jordan went cold at the start of the fourth period. The 76ers, led by Charles Barkley's 30 points, chopped the lead to 73-71 on a basket by Barkley with 8:35 left. But they never could tie it.

Scottie Pippen made a free throw with 8:32 left for the Bulls' first point in the final quarter. Jordan, who had missed four straight shots, then scored 15 points down the stretch to clinch the victory. Jordan ended the game in dramatic fashion with a 3-point goal.

Pippen had 18 points, 11 assists and eight rebounds. Mike Gminski had 14 points for the 76ers.

The teams meet again tomorrow night before the series shifts to Philadelphia for games Friday and Sunday.

Sullivan set for Indy 500

INDIANAPOLIS, May 8, (AP): Danny Sullivan, who has had a lucky spin as well as a few bad bounces at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway, doesn't even think about the broken arm that almost kept him out of the race a year ago.

Sullivan's car lost a hood cover during practice two days before the start of qualifications. The car slid 645 feet (196.7 metres), spun once and struck the outside wall, and Sullivan suffered a mild concussion and broken right arm.

He was fitted with a special cast, but the Penske racing team hired Geoff Brabham as a stand-in driver. Sullivan couldn't drive. Sullivan, winner of the Indy 500 in 1985 but eliminated in wrecks three other times, was able to qualify the second weekend but exited after 41 laps because of a bad clutch.

Factor

"I don't think about it anymore," Sullivan, fourth in Indy-car season standings this year, said. "It was a factor, but I was able to win a couple races last year after that with about 85 per cent strength in my arm, and over the winter, I was able to develop it physically."

Sullivan and his Penske teammates Rick Mears and Emerson Fittipaldi are among the favourites for the pole position during the first of four days of qualifications Saturday for the May 27 race.

Sullivan drove his new Chev-powered Penske racer for the first time this week.

"We're just trying to tune it, get it a little faster and not do anything silly," he said. "This is my first time at Indianapolis since last year — I didn't test there with Rick and Emmo — so I'm just trying to get back in the groove."

S. Korea rout US

SYDNEY, May 8, (Reuters): Olympic silver medalists South Korea blasted their way into the semifinals of the Women's World Cup hockey tournament today with a 9-0 victory over the United States.

Korea, who began the tournament with a 7-0 defeat of Spain, join defending champions the Netherlands as the second qualifier from the six-team Pool B.

In the other key match, number one seeds Australia beat Japan 2-0 to go to the top of Pool A on goal difference ahead of England.

The final match of the preliminary round between Australia and fourth seeds England tomorrow will decide which two teams qualify from Pool A.

If Australia and England draw, they both qualify. If either lose heavily they could be leapfrogged by West Germany who are two points behind and play Argentina tomorrow.

Second-seeded Korea powered six goals ahead by halftime against an unprepared US side, which replaced the Soviet team only two weeks before the tournament.

They extended their lead in the second half despite several fine saves from US reserve goalkeeper Donna Lee. Midfielder Cho Kyn Soon scored a hat-trick and Jin Won Sim, captain Lim Gye Sook and Jan Eun Jung each netted two a piece.

"I'm very confident for the semis," said team manager Park Young Jo. "We would prefer to play England or West Germany because South Korea has never beaten Australia."

Jacque Pereira scored both Australia's goals to become the tournament's top scorer following a hat-trick in the 3-0 win over China on the opening day.

After an uneventful first half, Pereira slammed home the first goal from a penalty corner in the 40th minute and then scored a field goal in the 55th.

China, newcomers to the World Cup, scored their first win of the tournament, defeating Argentina 2-0 in Pool A.

In Pool B, New Zealand drew 1-1 with Spain.

Calgary coach fired

CALGARY, Alberta, May 8, (Reuters): A Stanley Cup and two presidents' trophies, awarded for the best overall record in the National Hockey League (NHL), were not enough to save Terry Crisp's job as head coach of the Calgary Flames.

Following Calgary's shocking first round exit from the NHL playoffs, general manager Cliff Fletcher yesterday announced

Crisp's firing at a news conference.

"It is the feeling that to maximise the potential of our hockey club it necessitates a change of coach," said Fletcher, who did not name a successor.

Fletcher said Crisp had the option of remaining with the team in a "meaningful capacity."

He said a decision on a new coach could be made in a few days.

Baseball games

NEW YORK, May 8, (Reuters): Results of Major League baseball games played yesterday.

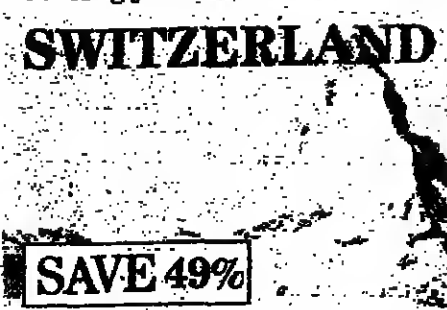
American League	2 (11)
Kansas City	4 Cleveland
Toronto	5 Chicago W.S
Milwaukee	5 Detroit
Oakland	5 N.Y. Yankees
Boston	5 Seattle
Baltimore	6 California
National League	6
Montreal Expos	7 San Francisco
N.Y. Mets	7 Houston
Pittsburgh	9 San Diego
Atlanta	9 Chicago Cubs
Cincinnati	3 St. Louis

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SPORTS BRIEFS

Corsica Rally

AIACCIO, Corsica, May 8. (Reuters). Leading standings in the Tour of Corsica Rally at the end of the first part of the third stage today: 1. Didier Auriol (France) Lancia Delta Integrale three hours 34 minutes six seconds; 2. Carlos Sainz (Spain) Toyota Celica one minute 11 secs behind; 3. Francois Chatriot (France) BMW M3 2:41; 4. Bruno Saby (France) Lancia Delta Integrale 3:55; 5. Yves Loubet (France) Lancia Delta Integrale 4:12; 6. Raimund Baumschlager (Austria) VW Golf GTI 19:35; 7. Claude Balesi (France) Renault GT Turbo 21:04; 8. Laureu Poggi (France) Citroen AX Sport 21:07; 9. Francois Serpagni (France) Ford Sierra Cosworth 21:48; 10. Alain Oudille (France) Renault 5 GT Turbo 22:09.

Australian Open

MELBOURNE, Australia, May 8. (Reuters). Sharp increases in prize money offered by Wimbledon and the French Open have left organisers of the Australian Open tennis championship wondering whether it can still compete as a Grand Slam tournament. Australian Open general manager Jim Reid said today that increases in prize money for Wimbledon and the French Open this year to about \$5.4 million had destroyed any hopes the Melbourne tournament had of competing in cash terms.

Reserve player

BELFAST, May 8. (Reuters). Liverpool's 21-year-old midfielder Jim Magilton, yet to play for his club's first team, was named today in Northern Ireland's squad for a soccer friendly against World Cup finalists Uruguay in Belfast on May 17.

Egyptian team

CAIRO, May 8. (UPI). Egypt's national soccer team, bound for the World Cup finals in Italy in June, yesterday left for a two-week warm-up series, with matches scheduled against Scotland and Romania.

Midfield star

MADRID, May 8. (Reuters). Midfield star Rafael Martin Vazquez said yesterday he was leaving Spanish soccer champions Real Madrid and would almost certainly play in Italy next season.

Return leg

FLORENCE, Italy, May 8. (Reuters). UEFA Cup finalists Fiorentina, banned from playing at their own ground because of crowd trouble, want to play the May 16 return leg against fellow Italians Juventus in Avellino, southern Italy.

Schumacher quits

ISTANBUL, Turkey, May 8. (AP). West German international goalkeeper Toni Schumacher yesterday will resign as the captain of the Turkish team Fenerbahce following a fight with a teammate during a League game Sunday.

Stanley Cup

NEW YORK, May 8. (Reuters). Results of the National Hockey League Stanley Cup semifinal playoff game yesterday: Wales Conference finals Boston Bruins 4, Washington Capitals 1 (Bruins lead best-of-seven series 3-0).

Becker edges Cane

HAMBURG, West Germany, May 8. (Agencies). Top-seeded Boris Becker of West Germany shrugged off a slow start to his second round match in the West German Open tennis championships today to score a 7-5 6-1 victory over Paolo Cane of Italy. Becker, who got the top seed after world No. 2 Stefan Edberg of Sweden withdrew from the tournament, made a number of unforced errors as he tried to overcome a stubborn Cane.

The first set went into a tie-breaker but the second saw Becker, the world No. 3, find his powerful serve and cruise to an easy victory. Cane seemed to be tired after his long match against Kevin Curran last night. Cane won that match 7-6 6-4 after a long struggle.

West German Jens Woehrman gained a measure of revenge yesterday for his Davis Cup loss to Argentine Alberto Mancini.

Woehrman beat the 16th seed 6-0 6-2 in the first round, giving him some compensation for the four-set defeat Mancini inflicted six weeks ago in the Davis Cup match between Argentina and West Germany in Buenos Aires.

Mancini's Argentine compatriot Guillermo Perez-Roldan, also made an early departure. The 14th seed was beaten 6-0 6-3 by Goran Prpic of Yugoslavia yesterday.

But 10th seed Jim Courier of the United States made it to the second round by beating Jan Gunnarsson of Sweden 6-7 6-4 6-2.

The organisers said second seeded American Andre Agassi, who pulled a calf muscle during an exhibition match in Atlanta on Sunday, confirmed he would be playing but asked that his opening match be delayed until tomorrow.

Results on the second day of the \$1 million men's West German Open tennis championships today (prefix number denotes seeding):

First round: Jakob Hlasek (Switzerland) 7-6 (7-2) 6-4; Magnus Gustafsson (Sweden) beat Sergi Bruguera (Spain) 6-2 6-4; Guy Forget (France) beat Karel Novacek (Czechoslovakia) 6-4 7-5; Ronald Agener (Haiti) beat Eric Jeleo (West Germany) 7-5 6-4.

Second round: 10th seed Jim Courier of the United States made it to the second round by beating Jan Gunnarsson of Sweden 6-7 6-4 6-2.

First round play, 10th seed Raffaella Reggi of Italy downed Natalia Medvedeva of the Soviet Union 6-0, 6-3 and No. 13 seed Catarina Lindqvist of Sweden prevailed over the Netherlands' Nicole Jagerman winning 7-5, 6-7 (9-7) 6-2.

De Mos wants to beat Sampdoria

Anderlecht set for final



Gianluca Vialli

GOTHENBURG, Sweden, May 8. (Reuters). Anderlecht coach Ad de Mos wants revenge when the Belgians take on Italy's Sampdoria in the final of the European Cup Winners' Cup tomorrow.

For De Mos was hitting his fingernails in the dug-out as coach of another Belgian club, Mechelen, when they were defeated by Sampdoria in the semifinal of last season's tournament.

"They're the same. Perhaps a bit stronger because they've practised together more and know each other better now," De Mos, reviewing this year's lineup of the Genoa side, told Reuters.

Dutchman De Mos and the Mechelen players were upset not only by the defeat, which stripped them of the Cup they had won in 1988, but also by what they considered rough Sampdoria tactics in the decisive return leg in Italy.

"But this time it'll be different. Now they won't have the home advantage and there's just one match," De Mos said of the Italians, who went down 2-0 to

Barcelona in the final. Anderlecht, with six European club finals including Cup Winner's Cup trophies in 1976 and 1978 and the UEFA Cup title in 1983, have tradition on their side when they step onto the pitch at Gothenburg's Ullevi Stadium.

De Mos can also take heart in a strong injury-free squad with six Belgian internationals, including strikers Marc van der Linden and Luc Nilis, and internationals from such diverse and exotic places as Nigeria, Zambia and

KUWAIT Television will show this match live on Channels 6 and 45 at 9.15 pm.

Iceland. But Sampdoria, anxiously eyeing their first international trophy which they hope will lift them into the top class of Italian clubs, remain a daunting prospect.

International strikers Gianluca Vialli and Roberto Mancini sharpened their knives against Monaco in the semifinals with Vialli striking twice in the 2-2 away draw and Mancini excell-

ing in the 2-0 home win.

"We must win the trophy, this time there are no excuses," said Vialli.

"Both trainers will plan tactics hoping the other team will attack, because both are very good on the break," he said.

"Anderlecht are a better side than Barcelona, but we are better than last year, too, so we can win it," added Mancini.

The Genoese, three-time winners of the Italian Cup and fifth in the Italian League this season, did not have to contend with Barcelona this time around. Ironically, the Spanish holders were eliminated by Anderlecht in the second round.

Vialli, Mancini and Sampdoria's two other players on the national squad — goalkeeper Gianluca Pagliuca and stopper Pao Vercorovich — returned yesterday from World Cup training camp in Florence for a flight to Sweden today.

With Brazilian midfielder Cerezo excluded by ligament trouble and injured libero Luca Pellegrini doubtful, Sampdoria are likely to field the same team which beat Monaco at home.

Lendl becomes a father

SYDNEY, May 8. (Reuters). World tennis number one (Jan Lendl) became a father last Friday when his wife Samantha gave birth to a baby girl Marika, a spokeswoman for his coach Tony Roche said today.

"Mother and daughter are doing well and father's doing pretty well too," Tricia Ahern said.

"I spoke to him on Sunday when he was going to pick up the baby and Samantha from hospital and he's thrilled."

Lendl was due to spend around six weeks in Australia practising on grass before Wimbledon, the one Grand Slam tournament he has failed to win.

But the Czechoslovak-born player spent just two weeks at Roche's Racquet Club on the coast north of Sydney before flying to his home in Connecticut on April 27 for the birth.

The baby was due in mid-May, Lendl, 30, married long-time companion Samantha Frankel after last year's US Open.

Ahern said by telephone Lendl would practise on grass in Connecticut, and then fly to Britain where he would practise with some British players.

He would warm up for Wimbledon by playing in tournaments at Beckenham and Queens, she said. Lendl will miss the French Open, which he has won three times.

Italians warn English fans

ROME, May 8. (Reuters). English soccer fans will be sent home if they get drunk and may be jailed if they cause trouble at the World Cup finals in June, Italy's soccer chief said today.

Speaking at a news conference after talks with British Sports Minister Colin Moynihan, soccer federation president Antonio Matarrese said Britain had asked Italy to deal severely with troublemakers, putting them in jail if necessary.

He said Britain was worried about possible violence by fans during the World Cup which would be on the sale of alcohol before, during and after England's matches.

Matarrese admitted it would be difficult to control alcohol sales in Italy, where beer, wine and spirits are freely available in every bar, cafe, grocer's shop and supermarket.

But he said: "I think we will be able to do it... fans must realize that if they get drunk we will send them home."

Matarrese, who is vice-president of the European Football Union Uefa, said Moynihan wanted a decision on the return of English clubs to European competitions delayed until after the World Cup.

He said Moynihan wanted the delay following clashes between police and over 2,500 football supporters in Bournemouth, England, on Saturday.

Maradona ready for World Cup

ROME, May 8. (Reuters). A new slimmer Diego Maradona, who once answered a goalkeeper's jibe of 'fat' by beating him four times in one match, has Argentine fans dreaming of World Cup glory once again.

The 29-year-old soccer genius, who had looked a spent force in mid-season, has shed eight kilos since March and inspired Napoli to the Italian League title when it seemed out of their grasp.

Gone is the haggard, often unshaven look of a man suffering from back pains and quarrels with his club and the press.

In its place, the famous artistry, control at speed and pinpoint passing are back.

Looking every bit as fit as when he led Argentina to World Cup triumph in Mexico four years ago, Maradona seems determined to retain the mantle of king of football in the 1990 finals starting next month.

Though Maradona may wave a magic wand on the pitch, it is all graft behind the scenes.

The most committed of players, Maradona was badly upset when as a teenager with Buenos Aires club Argentinos Juniors in 1980 he heard that veteran Boca Juniors goalkeeper Hugo Gatti said he could easily turn into a little fatso.

"I'll put three goals past him on Sunday," Maradona retorted, thinking ahead to the impending League clash between the two sides, and actually beat Gatti four times.

Gatti's point, however, was that the stocky, muscular Maradona had a tendency to put on excess weight easily if he was not careful.

Maradona, worried about his lack of fitness and about being at least six kilos overweight, in March began a diet prescribed by his nutrition specialist Henri Chenot.

After shedding about four kilos, Maradona went to see sports medicine specialist professor Antonio Dal Monte in Rome, asking to be fine-tuned for two objectives, the Italian championship and the World Cup.

By winning the first, Maradona has already contributed to Argentina's defence of the world title. It will be like playing at home in Naples, a city in love again with the Napoli ace.

After a victory over Juventus in late March, Maradona said: "The fans wouldn't let me go, they climbed on to my car. It was very emotional, something like regaining the affection which I feared had been lost after the jibes and whistles of earlier Sunday League matches."

Dal Monte, head of Rome's Institute of Sports Science, streamlined Maradona for the 1986 World Cup finals and he has done the same again this year.

After examining the Argentine ace, Dal Monte said Maradona had been like a Rolls Royce abandoned in a field. But he warned he would have a brilliant end of season and would be "the king of the World Cup".

The Italian specialist said that he made a detailed study of Maradona's physical condition and drew up a personalised training programme for the Argentine to



Maradona pounds away on an exercise bike. (Reuters wirephoto)

follow daily wherever he was, at home, in Napoli or on a long plane trip to Japan.

He said that when Maradona came to see him he complained of back pains and was worried about being too fat to stretch himself in training.

"We had to show him his body was in good shape," Dal Monte said. "A series of physio-biomechanic tests with very modern equipment, convinced him."

The training programme was aimed essentially at getting Maradona in top shape for the full length of a match, making him faster but reducing the after-effects of his efforts by increasing his powers of recovery, Dal Monte said.

But he said Maradona did all the hard work. The professor simply told him what he could achieve.

Dal Monte, who deals regularly with players of Rome's First Division clubs as Roma and Lazio, has also been working on Maradona's Argentine team mate Jorge Valdano.

"Valdano is the most interesting from the scientific point of view. If it (his comeback) works, it will be a miracle," Dal Monte said.

The 34-year-old former Real Madrid star, a promising member of Argentina's 1986 side, retired three years ago but, urged by coach Carlos Bilardo, is attempting a comeback specifically for the World Cup.

Dal Monte said there was an element of luck in his success with Maradona.

"Football is so unpredictable that all it would have needed was for Maradona to take a sufficiently hard knock for people to say immediately that all this work was a mistake."

Swear off sex: Vicini

COVERCIANO, Italy, May 8. (AP). The head coach of the Italian national soccer team yesterday said he is asking his players to swear off sex until the World Cup tournament ends on July 8.

Azeglio Vicini told reporters in Italy's training centre at Coverciano, near Florence, that the next weekend will be the last at liberty for the players before a long period of "seclusion".

"Clarity of players prior to and during a major competition has been a long-debated but unsolved problem," said Vicini, adding that the players will have to concentrate on strategy, training and study their opponents.

Vicini, a former player, added he was certain that the players will be busy enough with the biggest challenge of their career, an unprecedented fourth world title for Italy.

For entertainment, he said, the players will have videotapes and a few excursions out of the training centre — under the watchful eye of Vicini and other team officials.

Police seek 'veto'

LONDON, May 8. (Reuters). Senior officers at the police officers in the front line of the soccer fans in a southern English town called yesterday for new powers to veto soccer matches.

Police arrested 120 people after anti-fans thousands of Leeds United fans, who were many without tickets, ran riot in a town on the seaside town of Bournemouth on Saturday. At least 20 people were injured.

Police said later they had asked many to change the date of the match, fearing a riot that a bank holiday fixture would bring trouble.

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